WORLD /A24 METRO /A22 NEWS /A2 ACROSS /A18

Nelson Mandela, Bill Gates are world's most esteemed, Bush in cellar, says survey conducted in 20 countries.

After 18 years, 'Bells of Diliman' to ring once more from Asia's first Carillon Tower when restored at a cost of P20M funded by UP Alumni Association.

Ongoing seminars for junior military officers denounced as 'indoctrinating' for an authoritarian regime and 'demonizing' the critics of President Arroyo.

Sierra Madre blocks 'Queenie' from becoming a supertyphoon.

Homework no good, say US parents, educators

WASHINGTON—A SMALL but increasingly vocal group of US parents and educators are pushing for homework to be abolished for younger children on grounds that it serves no purpose.

According to here-mor

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, November 12, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 346 P18 www.inq7.net

RP lanterns lit up Dubai, Saipan; now it's Guam

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer General Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—HOMEGROWN lanterns lit up Dubai in 2000 and Saipan starting in 2002.

Come December, Guam's capital Agana City will also be adorned with handcrafted lanterns from this Pampanga capital.

RP LANTERNS /A5

Cebu using 'Imeldific' makeover for Asean summit

ASEAN FEVER has hit Cebu City, which hosts from Dec. 11 to 14, the 12th Summit of Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The center of the frenzy is the highly controversial Cebu International Convention Center, the summit's venue, which—depending on which side of the makeover the Cebuanos are—is either 90 percent done or most likely will not be finished on time.

By Jhanna Magallacas,
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WITH THE 12TH SUMMIT OF LEADERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations less than a month away, officials in charge of the preparations for the three-day conference here have found it necessary to window-dress a la Imelda Marcos the Queen City of the South and its environs.

One barangay chair in Mandaue City described the hectic preparations as an "Imeldific strategy," that is, impress the foreign visitors and keep the ugly out of sight.

Traffic islands, barren and unremarkable these many years, became works of landscaped art overnight and streets that had not seen asphalt overlays for years shone with new tar.

The smell of paint is everywhere, even in the densely packed houses along the "ceremonial route" from the Mactan-Cebu International Airport to the summit's official residences and venues, their roofs now sporting a rainbow white, green or blue to hide-

CEBU A11

ALCANO meets defending champion Wu Chia-ching Saturday, plays German Souquet for world title today.

Last Filipino standing

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cebu born and bred, Monique Lhuillier, who now finds herself compared to her idols Carolina Herrera, Oscar de la Renta and Vera Wang, is in town to stage a fashion show tonight to benefit Asia Society and Bantay Bata 163. Also, the good cause is a good excuse to find out why Monique is fast becoming Hollywood's Red Carpet sweetheart. Catch her at the Makati Shangri-La.

LIFESTYLE /C1

Three Years for dream of 3 small town mayors to come true: RP goods worth P1M make historic trip to Indonesia.

SUNDAY BIZ /B1

Who says it always takes two to tango? 5 great things to do alone. Never too old to go solo and focus on you and your discoveries

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

PDI's man in Hollywood reports all about Yam Laranas himself directing the American version of his acclaimed thriller "Sigaw," a terrific new Bond (James, that is) and Borat, part 2.

ENTERTAINMENT /I1

By Mayong R. Castillo

THE MAN WHO KNOCKED out the Philippines' brightest—and most loved—hope proved to be its worthiest hope after all.

Ronnie Alcano, the last Filipino standing after eight days of the World Pool Championship, prevailed in a match littered with errors and grievous misses, downing Chinese Li Hewen, 13-8, yesterday to reach the finals against methodical German Ralf Souquet at the PICC in Pasay City.

The 1996 champion Souquet bundled out the last entry from the rank-and-file Taiwanese delegation, hoarding clean impossible shots and displaying nerves of steel in a hill-hell game against Pe Chu-wei, 11-10.

"I'm happy to make it to the finals," the 37-year-old Souquet said. "I don't care who I play against, because obviously anyone who gets to the finals is a good player. You don't get there by being lucky."

The championship match today starting at 4 p.m. is a race-to-17 duel with the winner clinching the tournament's

LAST, A11

FLAG OF THEIR FATHERS
A tattered Philippine flag flies above what passes for home—a patchwork of rags, cardboard, discarded bits and pieces of wood. But with the flag high up there, this home in the Bianco compound in Tondo is also made of pieces of hopes and dreams.

Filipino couple lured to China, kidnapped, escape after 21 days

By Veronica Uy
INQ7.net

A FILIPINO COUPLE WHO WERE KIDnapped after being lured to go to China to buy cheaper goods for their buy-and-sell business escaped from their captors after 21 days in captivity, the Department of Foreign Affairs said on Friday.

Philippine Consul General to Xiamen

FILIPINOS A5

Lacson dares DOJ: Name names

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SAYING HIS HANDS WERE CLEAN, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday challenged Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to "name names" and identify the incumbent politicians supposedly behind two major criminal cases that had been unsolved for years.

The cases involved the alleged robbery in 1995 of 11 members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang and the mysterious disappearance in 1999 of casino camera operator Edgar Bennett, who had been tagged as the source of a leaked security video footage showing then Vice President Joseph Estrada gambling in a local hotel casino.

"He (Gonzalez) should name names instead of making innuendos," Lacson

LACSON A15

THE SPLINTERED LEFT

'There are still priests, nuns working with NPA'

(Last of a series)

T-TEAM *Report*

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief

THE CLEAN-SHAVEN CLERIC WHO CONducted exorcism rituals in Congress, fasted many minutes near the Palace and staged hunger strikes over the past year was a far cry from the long-haired priests who held a Bible in one hand and threw bombs with the other in the troubled 1970s and '80s.

They differed in style and tactics. But each one of them shared a common wisdom, each one attempted to give substance and meaning to the Theology of Liberation that sprang from the Second Vatican Council in 1965. That conclave in Rome set out a new mission for church men to seek social justice for the poor.

Departing from traditional dogma and practices, priests stepped out of pulpits to give the suffering Jesus Christ new meaning. Religious communities established social action centers to address society's inequities.

Church activists encouraged factory workers to organize, farmers to fight land grabbers. They joined radicals in

THERE A6

Dare to Ask,
Be an Inquirer.

What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh?

THIS PICTURE of PDI founding chair Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol (right) and editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc appeared in the Nov. 13, 2006, issue of Time Magazine on 60 Asian heroes to mark the news magazine's 60th anniversary.

DARE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION in 60 words or less and win P500,000, 1st prize; P200,000, 2nd prize and P50,000, 3rd prize in cash and appliances. Contest is open to all Inquirer readers in the Philippines. For more details, see Page A16.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FRONTPAGE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

'AFP being turned against GMA foes'

By Fe B. Zamora

PASTOR "BOY" SAYCON, AN ARCH OPPONENT of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has claimed that junior military officers are being made to go through "indoctrination" sessions on the role of the Armed Forces in changing Philippine society, where personalities critical of the administration, like himself, are "demonized."

According to Saycon, he was told by some junior officers that the alleged "indoctrination" took place at a seminar on national security conducted in Davao City last month by the Center for Strategic Studies, an office under National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

The seminar was conducted by Jesuit priest Fr. Jose Romeo Intengan, a known ally of Gonzales, both of them being leaders of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalismo ng Pilipinas (PDSP).

Intengan moderated during conducted a series of seminars that were attended by junior officers, some retirees and selected enlisted personnel assigned to civil-relations functions. At least one non-rank officer has gone through the seminar, he said.

He said President Arroyo approved the seminars. He said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye even asked for the seminar materials for reference to the media.

Intengan, who has described the Armed Forces of the Philippines as "the strongest symbol of the nation," said he spoke at the seminars about "the many dysfunctions of democracy" and the role of the Armed Forces in the "real sense of the people."

"The problem of the AFP is lack of political knowledge. The military must be political, but it must not take political sides," Intengan said in a telephone interview.

"The military is prey to political patronage because of the whole climate of a dysfunctional liberal democracy. Our purpose is to use the military out of that system," he said.

In an essay that he wrote last year, Intengan said the country was governed by a "dysfunctional pseudo-liberal democratic framework dominated by traditional politicians."

He said that a "decisive movement away from liberal democracy to social democracy" was needed to transform the Philippines.

According to Saycon, the junior officers claimed that the underscore on the national security situation was actually an "indoctrination" seminar on authoritarianism and the "necessity" of Mr. Arroyo.

The speakers distorted the political issue by destroying all kinds of opposition groups and, in the process, justifying an endless martial regime," said Saycon, quoting from the junior officers who attended the seminar.

Among those identified as "resource aides" of the Arroyo administration were Ramon and William Esperon of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa), and nationalist economist Alejandro Lichauco.

"There was deception, that's what the junior officers said," Saycon said, adding that the seminars were exposed the officers to "partisan politics."

Saycon said the government should "insulate" the Armed Forces from divisive, partisan activities.

Intengan said that some officers did question the purpose of the seminar.

"They asked, who is this for? We told them, we don't care who is in power, this is nation-building," he said.

A medical doctor who became a Jesuit priest, Intengan is known as the "theologue" in the PDSP and Gonzales's friend since the 1970s. He has been openly supporting plans to shift to a parliamentary system by way of a constitutional convention.

Intengan denied that the seminars were intended to recruit the officers to become members of the PDSP.

"We are not recruiting them. A PDSP member who wants to join the military has to quit the PDSP and a military man who wants to join PDSP must leave the AFP," he said.

'Nene' says JPE reso may be trap

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATE SECRETARY JAMES AGUSTO "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday warned his colleagues against killing for the resolution filed by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada calling on the Senate and the House of Representatives to convene as a constituent assembly to approve amendments to the Constitution.

"I want to make sure that this resolution is not a ploy to entrap the senators into endorsing the JDV [House Speaker Jose de Venecia] formula," said Pimentel in a phone interview.

After the defeat of the people's initiative in the Supreme Court, the House has switched to its Plan B mode for Charter change—convene Congress into a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to propose a shift to a parliamentary system and a unicameral legislature that would involve the 80-MMDA [Metro Manila Development Authority] mayors.

Pimentel said he was bothered by the Estrada resolution's "frightening silence" on the crucial issue of whether the Senate and the House should vote separately or jointly when proposing constitutional changes, the single issue dividing the senators and the representatives.

House leaders contend that a constituent assembly resolution approved by 195 congressmen, or three-fourths of the House membership, would be sufficient to amend the Charter because the Constitution does not explicitly state that the two chambers have to vote separately.

The senators' position is that the two chambers have to vote separately on the issue because then it is in the nature of a bicameral Congress. They have adopted a resolution to that effect.

Estrada, who entered into an anti-opposition bloc to curse an administration ally, has said that he is for the voting separately position but his resolution does not contain that assertion.

The senators moved to beat the recess of House Con-ass proponents during last week's Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting in Malacañang, which Estrada and other senators attended.

Estrada said he filed the resolution to provoke a debate in the Senate on the need to change the Constitution to enable the country to advance politically and economically.

He noted that since no Con-ass resolution had been filed in the Senate, the chamber had no basis on which to discuss the issue.

But Pimentel said he was bothered by Estrada's silence on the manner of voting.

He feared that once the Senate agreed to convene jointly with the House, the senators may end up being outvoted on the constitutional issue of the manner of voting in a Con-ass.

If the senators decide to approve the Estrada resolution, they must insist that it categorically state that the voting be done separately, he said.

"The manner of the vote done during is sufficient could be very great stakes from the beginning. It is clearly, categorically and explicitly stated that we will have separate voting," he said.

HH Holiness Karmapa Wrinng Thaye Dorje (left), the 32-year-old reincarnated head of the Karma Kagyu, sure of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism, arrives at the Naia from Boca Raratan. He is believed to be the 17th reincarnation of the Karmapa since the 12th century. JOY GARCIA

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Holy man's 1st lesson is in humility

By Rolr Cordovez

HIS HOLINESS KARMAPA THAYE DORJE arrived in Manila yesterday to the consternation of Filipino followers who, upon seeing him on foot for the first time on Philippine soil, reversed from him and entered into a frenzy.

The Tibetan holy man gestured as though to say "no, there is no need" when a group of the airport by about a dozen admirers who practically were down on all fours upon seeing him emerge from the bridge.

"I'm very happy to be here in the Philippines to promote the magic of dharma [or Buddhist teachings]," the Karmapa Lama said in his brief remarks at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. He and his entourage of supporters (the equivalent of Catholic cardinals) flew in at 2:45 p.m. via Malaysian Airlines.

A motorcade brought him to the Manila Hotel, via Roxas Boulevard where his presence and symbolic flags dotted the entire island.

At 23, the Buddhist master on a mission to share the path to enlightenment, not a ruling figure or the unfamiliar, with his tall hood and fine looks. One reporter remarked on the similarity he looked striking (Gandy).

He is the venerated head of the Karma Kagyu, one of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism and known as the oral or patriarchal school. It is focused on the yogic transmission of the dharma.

Known as the holders of the Black Crown or the Black Hat, Karmapa Lamas are from the most ancient lineage of Tibetan Buddhism's religious figures, two centuries ahead of the Dalai Lama lineage.

His visit was arranged by the Philippine Nuclear Energy Buddhist Dharmma Foundation based in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Thaye Dorje is one of two figures recognized by all living Karma Kagyu traditions as the 17th reincarnation of the Karmapa beginning with Gyaltsa Dharpaye in 1110. The other one is the 25-year-old Ogyen Trinley Dorje, recognized Tibetan study schools.

Thaye Dorje was born on May 6, 1983, in Tibet, the eldest son of a stupendor and a daughter of nobility, according to a statement by the foundation. He is also a descendant of many generations of devotees and medical scholars.

The 17th Gyaltsa Karmapa was enthroned in New Delhi in March 1994. His name translation: Trinley (Buddha Activity), Thaye (Limitless), Dorje (everlasting).

The public can attend his talks and blessings at: Nov. 12 at the Philippine International Convention Center, 1 p.m., Nov. 13, PICC, 6 p.m., Nov. 14, 6 p.m., at the Colonnade Ballroom/Sundance in Quezon City, and Nov. 17, 6 p.m. at the Polytechnic of Philippines Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Manila.

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Asean addresses environment issues

By Irene R. Silva-Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

LAPU-LAPU CITY—ENVIRONMENT MINISters of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday agreed to further enhance regional cooperation to protect the environment, promote biodiversity and deal with cross-border problems such as forest fire haze and the illegal trade in wildlife.

In a Cebu Resolution on Sustainable Development, adopted at the end of the two-day 12th Asean Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa, the environment ministers also expressed full support for the recently established Asean Centre for Biodiversity, which is hosted by the Philippines.

The Mactan meeting is a prelude to the 12th Asean Summit in December which will be held in Cebu.

In the resolution, the ministers agreed to pursue the listing of Asean Heritage Parks as way to manage the region's rich biological resources.

In the Philippines, there are four Asean Heritage Parks: The Mt. Apo National Park in Davao Oriental, the Kh. Ijdh Daro National Park in Mindoro, the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan and the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park in Sulu.

The environment ministers also expressed serious concerns over recurring transboundary haze pollution caused by forest fires, particularly from Indonesia. A Sub-regional Ministerial Steering Committee consisting of representatives from the five most affected countries, namely, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, was formed to address more closely the land and forest fires that cause the haze.

Singapore and Indonesia pledged US$50,000 each to start a "haze fund."

Another highlight of the Cebu Resolution is the agreement to expedite in their countries the signing of a regional "framework agreement on access to, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of, biological and genetic resources, in order to sustainably manage the rich biological resources of the region."

During a press briefing, Philippine Environment Secretary and conference chair Angelo Reyes cited the importance of conserving the region's plants and animals since the extinction of a species would have an adverse impact on the entire ecosystem.

"We asked the members of the Asean to set up a network so that there will be an exchange of information and more coordination, including training and capacity-building during. "But we are not envisioning setting up a regional task force," Reyes said in an interview.

He noted that the Cebu meeting recognized the need to strengthen regional cooperation for effective environment law enforcement to address such issues as the illegal trade in wildlife.

The Third Asean State of the Environment Report 2006, a compilation of Asean country reports which will be presented during the summit, was launched during the meeting. With a report from Norman Bordadora

MAY BAGONG MUKHA ANG KABAYANIHAN

May kakilala ka bang nagsisilbi sa kapwa at sa bayan?
Maaaring sila na ang susunod na Bayaning Pilipino.

Bayaning Pilipinong Indibidwal at Bayaning Kabataang Pilipino*

Mga Kategorya:
1. May Pakikipagkapwa-tao
2. Makabayan, Mahilig at Makatang
3. Naglilingkod sa mahihirap at sa komunidad
4. Malikpat at may kamangyan
5. May takot at pag-asa sa Diyos

*Ang mga nominado ay kinakailangang Pilipino citizen na may edad 15-30 taong gulang at aktibong naglilingkod sa komunidad sa panahon ng nominasyon.

Bayaning Samahang Pilipino

Mga Kategorya:
1. Naglilingkod sa mahihirap na komunidad
2. May sariling sikap at hindi kinakailangang umasa sa iba (self-reliant)
3. Malikpat at may kamangyan
4. May demokratikong pamamaraan

Bayaning Gurong Pilipino**

Mga Kategorya:
1. Nagpapalili kahit lampas sa tawag ng tungkulin
2. May maimoteng pamimiwala sa pamilyanang kalarungan
3. Mapagkusang-loob
4. Malikpat at may kamangyan
5. Maprehen at Mapanuri
6. Nakabuohay sa pag-asa

**Ang mga nominado ay kinakailangang hindi kukulangin sa sampung (10) taon ng nalipong paglilingkod mula sa isang pormal na institusyon na kabilang sa elementari, mataas (elementary) o mataas (high school) na antas, pampublikn (public) o pampribadong (private) institusyon.

MGA KINAKAILANGAN SA MGA NOMINADO

Para sa Bayaning Pilipino (Indibidwal) Bayaning Guro at Bayaning Kabataan
- Nomination Form
- Tatlong (3) Reference Forms
- Isang (1) 2" x 2" na larawan

Para sa Bayaning Samahan:
- Nomination Form
- Tatlong (3) Reference Forms, Kalakban o Minutes ng Strategic Planning & Evaluation Session ng Samahan
- Kopya ng Pagpaparehistro sa SEC o kahit anung LGUs (local government units)

Contact Info:

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5 Lucena kids honored for honesty

By Dello T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—THIS IS WHY GOD OBLIGES US.

Five elementary school children were commended by the Lucena City government for their exemplary display of honesty. While marching for a misdemeanor rat which was allegedly stealing food from homes in the neighborhood, they found a wallet with P40,000 in cash and returned it to its owner.

During a program last Monday City Hall employees earned the five children, namely, Luigi Villania, Ken Marvin, Kevin Abas, Marc Dagal and Hernan Jacinto,—all Grade 6 students at the Lucena East Elementary School in Barangay 6—for their good deed.

Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. also gave P1,000 to each of them as a token of his appreciation.

"They are worthy models of every Lucenahin Cuarto of Lucena). They may not be rich but their good deed would be a legacy to their respective families," Talaga said.

Villania, one of the five boys, narrated that last month they were looking for a cat that they claimed had invaded two several houses in the neighborhood, stealing food left unattended on the dining table.

"I saw something which I thought was part of the cat. So I hit it with a stick to frighten the cat. It turned out that what I hit was a wallet," he told the reporters.

The boys picked up the wallet, opened it and saw wads of P1,000- and P500-bills.

Happy with their discovery, the five friends started shouting, which caught the attention of several bystanders.

"We were suddenly surrounded by people and they all wanted a share of the money. To escape the crowd, Abas ran with the wallet," Villania said, referring to one of his buddies.

"I was afraid one of the bystanders might grab the wallet so I ran, with my buddies behind me, until we lost the crowd," Abas said.

The boys admitted they had thought of dividing the money among themselves, giving their respective shares to their parents who, like most Filipinos, are poor.

"But I remembered what my parents and teachers taught me. We should always be honest and we shouldn't ever covet what is not ours," Villania said.

Villania's parents are unemployed and they all live in the grandmother's house.

For convincing his buddies to return the money to its owner and they all agreed, Abas learned an almost-instant end to the wallet and sought the assistance of Mel Lagos, the village chieftain, to return the money to its owner.

The wallet belonged to Modesto Obsuga, a local businessman and resident of the same village. As a reward, he gave the five kids a P1,000-bill.

"He told us to divide the money among ourselves, so each of us had P200," Villania said.

When Lucena Councilor Jose Aurea learned of the good deed, he wanted to meet the five boys, which led to their recognition by the city government.

Aurea sponsored a resolution at the Sangguniang Panlungsod giving the recognition to the honesty of the children.

After the morning program on Monday, Aurea treated the boys to a hearty breakfast of noodle soup (a local favorite of toasted noodles) and sandwiches at the Tayabense Restaurant at the back of the city hall.

The five buddies, all basketball fans, confided to the reporters that their collective wish was to have their own basketball uniforms and a ball.

"We've been dreaming of wearing a complete basketball uniform but our parents can't afford the cost. Maybe, some kind people could grant our wish," said Villania.

GOOD MEAL FOR A GOOD DEED: After a program to recognize their honesty, Luigi Villania, Ken Marvin, Kevin Abas, Marc Dagal and Hernan Jacinto, all Grade 6 students at the Lucena East Elementary School, are treated by the city government to breakfast. EDGAR L. ENCALADA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

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Homework no good, say US parents ...

Synergy #1

books are the culprit, dissenters children are being robbed of time to enjoy hobbies, sports and even their families because of too much homework.

The books argue that children are doing more homework than ever with no concrete evidence that it has a significant effect on the learning experience.

"There is no research that shows that there is any correlation between homework and academic achievement in elementary school and even in high school," Sara Bennett, co-author of "The Case Against Homework," told Agence France-Presse.

Waste of kids' time

A New York-based advisory, Bennett decided to investigate the subject and write a book about it when she saw the guarding suffered her two children were subjected to after school.

"I would look at what was coming home and it would seem like the biggest waste of my kids' time," she said. "When my son was in middle school, I felt like he was working the way I had worked in law school and I just thought that was crazy."

Bennett said she questioned why you would ever do that to a child."

Bennett said she got so fed up with the system that she decided to place her two children in an alternative school this year where they have no homework.

Benefit doubted

"There is nothing that shows that kids will be smarter or better-educated or more analytical or creative thinkers if they do homework," she said. "The kids are spending a lot of time doing work that nobody has really been able to say is beneficial."

Alfie Kohn, author of "The Homework Myth," argues that not only is too much homework wrecking children's love of learning, but it may have adverse effects.

Critics also say that in today's ever-more competitive, parents have less time to help their children—and are often forced to hire private tutors to ensure their kids don't fall behind.

Not everyone agrees

But not everyone agrees that homework is bad for kids.

Harris Cooper, who has said that home study is healthy for children, teaching them how to manage their time and lessons self-confidence and responsibility.

Still, there is evidence that younger children may not benefit much from homework.

A Duke University study found a correlation between homework and student achievement, but the link was stronger among middle and high school students.

The study found that as children age they can handle more homework and suggested that time spent on studying be adapted to a child's age.

Test-graders, for example, should have 10 minutes of homework, second-graders 20 minutes and so on. The formula holds through high school. AFP

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 22, 2009
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:13-16

Elijah at Zarephath

Elijah went to Zarephath. On reaching the gate of the town, he met a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, "Bring me a little water to a vessel that I may drink."

As she went getting the water, he called after her and said, "Bring me also a piece of bread." But she answered, "As Yahweh your God lives, I have no bread left me, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am just now gathering some sticks so that I may go in and prepare something for myself and my son that we may eat and die."

Elijah then said to her, "Do not be afraid. Go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me. Then make some for yourself and your son. For this is the word of Yahweh, the God of Israel, 'The jar of meal shall not be emptied nor shall the jug of oil fail, until the day Yahweh sends rain upon the earth.'"

She went and did as Elijah told her, and she had food for herself, Elijah and her son from that day on. The jar of flour was not emptied nor did the jug of oil fail, in accordance with what Yahweh had said through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10

Christ's coming is certain

Christ did not enter some sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself. He is now in the presence of God on our behalf. He has not to offer himself many times, as the High Priest does he who does so every year, but now, at the end of the ages, he has appeared to do away with sin once for all by his sacrifice. Otherwise he would have suffered many times from the creation of the world. But no: he manifested himself only once in the end of the ages, to take away sin by himself, and, as human life only once and afterwards are judged, in the same way Christ was offered himself once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to obtain quite to save those waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

Poor widow's offering

As Jesus was teaching, he also said to the people, "Beware of those teachers of the law who enjoy walking around in long robes and being greeted in the marketplaces, and who like to occupy reserved seats in the synagogues and the first places at feasts. They even devour the widow's land the orphan's goods while making a show of long prayers. These will receive a severer sentence."

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people dropping money into the treasury box; and many rich people put in large offerings. But a poor widow who came and dropped in two small coins.

Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all those who gave offerings. For all of them gave from their abundance, but she gave from her poverty and put in everything she had, her very living."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Elijah strikes the widow of Zarephath to give him a drink and the others. Then he asks for a piece of bread, but she has none. She is preparing to die and her son with her. Elijah tells her not to fear as a prophet gives her life. For years together with the prophet, they live on the meal that does not run out.

We too live on the life and sacrifice of Jesus that was given once but endures and remains. The widow in the temple gives out of the sustenance, all that she has to live on, more than any of the others give. And Jesus concludes that she is the best, giving to God not the gift of life and self. What do we give our God?

Quotations: Publications Inc., 4 Manzanita St., EP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, PO Box 4, Kalookan, 1109, Philippines (Tel. 981-5484; Fax 921-7430; E-mail: info@quotations.com.ph; Website: http://www.bible-charts.org (Quotations Publications Inc.) © http://www.novena-church.org (Churches in the Philippines)

Kapatiran party elects new officials

PRESIDENT TEDE Sanpre Blanco II, Ongpin is the new president of Ang Kapatiran, political party founded by Senator Benigno Aquino III and Manuel Roxas II. Aquino was elected Secretary General of the party. The Commission on Elections accredited Ang Kapatiran as a national political party on May 6, 2008.

Other officers who were elected at a general meeting on Nov. 4, 2008 were: Manuel L. Quezon, III, Daniel Lim, vice chair, Henry de Guzman, vice president, Administration; Antonio Abellana, vice president, Western Mindanao; Philippine Peter Ay, vice president for Mindanao; Senador Bonifilio and Rafael Enriquez, deputy secretary general.

Elected chairs of sectoral committees were: Eladio Lapid, membership; Pete Concepcion and Mel Palaypay, education; Henry de Guzman, finance; Mandy Pacheco, public information; Adrian Noel and Sabra Sikorski, research and documentation; Jun Jun Bolo, legal affairs; Rafael Enrique, grievance and arbitration; Jose Bautista, social action; Herman Cabrera, electoral; and Gerry Gomez, youth and sectoral organizations.

Ang Kapatiran promotes a platform-based politics with clean and open elections, transparency and enhancing the vote count good.

Gov't in hiring, not firing, mood, Andaya tells workers

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS MOVED TO ASSUAGE the fears of over one million state employees of massive layoffs next year when the government starts implementing of its rationalization program which is intended to strengthen the bureaucracy.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the government may "in fact hiring, rather than firing" government employees next year in line with its plan to beef up the education and health care services, and strengthen its security forces.

Andaya explained that Executive Order No. 366 was meant to realign redundant government personnel by shifting them to other departments or offering them early retirement packages.

"But personnel movements will come as a result of this participative, democratic consultative rationalization of the government within voluntary and even coercive in nature," Andaya said.

He said there were "technological changes" to be considered, especially with the advent of the Internet which some agencies had outlived their usefulness.

"Would you believe that there is still one office that handles Japanese war reparations?" Andaya said.

Andaya said this was the first step in the government's plan to strengthen the bureaucracy.

Salary scheme

The rationalization program includes a salary scheme that would raise the pay of government workers to levels that would be competitive with the private sector. The government has budgeted P30.2 billion for the initial year of the salary upgrading plan.

Andaya said the government will be hiring 18,000 teachers and 800 principals next year, recruit 3,000 more policemen, tap dozens of agents for the Office of the Ombudsman, and fill all authorized medical service positions in state hospitals.

"We will retain them are frontline, essential personnel. We are not taking in deskbound people," Andaya said.

Andaya said he was confident the new hires would not "bloat" the bureaucracy now estimated at 1.133 million employees because of the early retirement program.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the rationalization program was voluntary and that consultations were ongoing with the different government agencies to value their fears on the streamlining of the bureaucracy.

No Taiwan ban on OFWs—Brion

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO BRION YESterday denied that Taiwan had imposed a ban on the deployment of overseas Filipino workers there beginning next year.

Brion issued the statement two days after returning from Taiwan where he met with labor officials to establish a mutually workable system that would deter the falsification of travel and employment documents.

He said the Department of Labor and Employment's Taiwanese counterpart, the Council of Labor of Affairs, denied imposing an across-the-board ban on the deployment of OFWs in Taiwan beginning in 2007.

According to Labor Attaché to Taiwan Reynaldo Gopez, the CLA said it "never considered freezing, restricting or banning the introduction of workers from the Philippines."

Pure fabrication

Gopez quoted Chen Yi-min, director general of CLA's Employment and Vocational Training Administration, as saying that the reported OFW ban was a "rumor and a pure fabrication."

Jackson Gan, president of the Filipino Association of Manpower Agencies Accredited to Taiwan (Philman), earlier said the CLA excluded Filipinos from its new quota of 90,000 foreign workers for next year.

The quota was for workers under the category called "3-D," which stands for "dangerous, dirty and difficult" jobs such as construction, steel fit and household, Gan explained.

In September, Taiwan cleared down the process of hiring Filipino workers after the documents of several OFWs were found to have been falsified.

Under Taiwan's labor rules, an OFW can no longer return to the island once his contract expires to give other foreigners a chance. But some Filipinos try to skirt the rule by using forged IDs to be able to return to Taiwan, it was learned.

Meeting with agencies

Brion said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration would soon meet with other government agencies such as the National Statistics Office, Department of Foreign Affairs, Social Security System, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and National Bureau of Investigation to discuss how to deter the falsification.

Private and other private manpower agencies will also be invited to give their input, Brion said.

DOLE said the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei was working closely with its counterpart, the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), to fine-tune the system and ensure safer employment for OFWs.

DOLE statistics showed there were 39,168 OFWs in Taiwan as of August 2006, representing 43.43 percent of the total 54,458 foreign workers in the category. Among them

'Nicaragdao' is gone but 'Barrio Patay' remains

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

MAWASHY—UNDER A SCORCHing sun, sweat-drenched hustlers with boarse voices tried to outshout each other to catch buyers' attention in the public market of Agdao in this city.

Money-wong other vendors were selling vegetables and fruits at prices lower than at the regular market stalls.

Under the flyover, not too far from a gaby bin, two traffic aides were directing motorists to avoid that would soon be choked with motorists.

It was another normal day in Agdao—no unlike those days two decades ago when the district was stained with blood, running with fear following the "Nicaragdao"—after a notorious Nicaraguan.

Back then, the Agusan-ville rate of the New People's Army had some home to visit its Agdao, along with regional leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

It was the same district where, Mike says a part of Agdao was once called Barrio Patay, or Village of Death. It was there the violence was at its worst.

Back then, no stranger got out of the area alive, Mike says.

Jesuse Catholic 49, says he fled the area for fear he would suffer the same fate one of his friends did.

"He was killed after he harassed his wife. He what I was afraid of becoming a victim of insurgents and getting killed because of it," Catholic said.

Agusan media media accounts that put the number of Agusan victims at more than a hundred, on top of the unrecorded cases.

Village chair Wilfredo Aquino and his armed civil defense team formed the situation in Agdao Proper. They have been hailed by former Agusan members who had questioned their leaders' order to kill their own relatives, says Spiers.

Alias Mama formed

The Agusan-downtown hap-pened in the mid-'80s when Ophie Abas, an internal OPP com-

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Abas's mother was killed by former Agusan members who had questioned their leaders' order to kill their own relatives, says Spiers.

'Butchered like chickens'

"You got used to the killings," says a cigarette vendor who calls herself Alla. "People were butchered like chickens."

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006 A9

Abra provincial exec shot dead

BAGUIO CITY—AN ABRA PROVINCIAL board member was shot dead by two motorriding gunmen in the capital of Tongpod.

Ernesto Dapit, Bogelio Zamano, Abra police director, said Board Member James Bersamin, 48, was jogging alone when the suspects, who were on a motorcycle and armed with a .45-cal. pistol, shot him at about 5 a.m.

Bersamin, husband of Bangued Mayor Ma. Zita Valera and former Philippine National Bank manager in the city, died from six bullet wounds. He was related to Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr.

Senior Insp. Charles Dumalig, Bangued police chief, said the police arrested the two suspects shortly after the killing.

"We were surprised [Bersamin] was attacked because as far as we know, he had no political enemies," Dumalig said.

But Abra Gov. Vicente Valera said Bersamin's murder may have been politically motivated.

Valera and Bersamin had been "floating the idea" of succeeding his wife and running for mayor of Bangued.

Bersamin was the second ranking official gunned down in Abra this year after La Paz Mayor Mun. Tirad Bersua who was killed in the La Paz town plaza on Jan. 13. Arbie Abra Paredes said a report from Arab Ginatilo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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2006 NATIONAL INVENTORS' CONGRESS

RP lanterns lit up Dubai, Saipan; now it's Guam

From page A1

Lantern maker Rolando Quimbao says these holiday pieces are more than commercial ornaments, they represent the breakthrough abroad of Kapampangan craftsmanship.

For the recipient of the art with the highest beginnings, the aspiration was simple: Make beautiful lanterns to enliven the spirit of the people and inspire hope for the new year.

As Quimbao remembers it, their rather ambitious stores sewed something like this: "Naval ng San Fernando, simpleng ng barong manila (Lanterns of San Fernando, light of the world)."

It is in this spirit, he says, that their lanterns are made.

All handmade

Last week, Quimbao shipped lanterns to Guam where, according to estimates of the government in the US territory, 20 percent of its 171,000 residents have Filipino roots.

The shipment, all packed in wooden crates, consisted of 674 lanterns which ranged from eight feet to four feet in diameter.

Quimbao says the designs vary. They have Santa Claus, holy (nativity scene), pyro (bears) and lots more—stiffest that reflect the indigenous culture of Guam's Chamorro people.

The lanterns' frames are made of metal while the cheese are lightness plastic. Flint lights, or tiny blinking bulbs in kindly colors, define the outlines.

World-class lanterns

Quimbao has 40 workers in his direct employ and 100 subcontractors in the villages of Del Pilar, San Jose and Sta. Lucia. They all worked extra-time (without the aid of machines) to finish the decor in record time and days before in Guam.

For the one-time Dubai contract, Quimbao shaped lanterns into Islamic motifs. The Saipan project, which is now on its third consecutive year, blended motifs and indigenous designs.

These foreign governments commissioned Quimbao for their projects on the endorsement of Filipinos living in those countries.

"This person that we are able to introduce the lanterns in any season," he says. "Only the designs are adjusted. We make the lanterns the same way we do it here."

That is enough reason to believe that the San Fernando lanterns can be marketed overseas.

Asean summit

Three days, Quimbao's hands are busy with local orders.

His workers are rushing to finish lanterns for Kinabatan City, site of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit on Dec. 13-14 in Cebu. (Story on Page A12)

We're making dozens of small and big stars lined with (fast-lights and capiz (seashells)," Quimbao says.

Last Saturday they delivered lanterns for the Clark Special Economic Zone. On Monday morning, Quimbao took time out to go to each orchestra/reserve install the lanterns.

Later in the evening, officials from San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan came to his office to choose designs and place orders.

The people in this city started making lanterns for the season of simbang gabi (dawn Mass) held nine days before Christmas Day, in Sunday from which San Fernando was named, the season came to be known locally as "lolosan."

CHRISTMAS STAR: In San Fernando, Pampanga, lantern artist Rolando Quimbao is creating a giant "parol" to light up the main street of Agana, Guam, for the holidays. Already, his lanterns have brightened Dubai and Saipan during the twenty season. They're not just commercial ventures but represent the best of Kapampangan craftsmanship abroad. PHILIP C. SALAZAR/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Before 1900, during the procession of images of patron saints, candles were encased in lotus-shaped paper.

Then, the faithful made colorful symbols. These are star-shaped papers lighted by candles or lamps attached to bamboo or wooden poles. The lanterns came to a set of 12, representing the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ.

American soldiers seized San Fernando in 1900 and brought with their tracks which ran on batteries.

The early lantern-makers, it is said, harnessed the batteries to light their lanterns during processions. To turn the lights off and on, they invented the lolokot, the forerunner of the rare to device that makes a giant lantern's lights blink).

The lolokot's was made up of a row of nails connected to the battery. A rod, connected to the wires of the light bulbs, was made to strike any of the nails to make the lights blink.

To complete the spectacle, musical bands or orchestras would accompany the play of lights.

1st festival in 1918

The start of the operations of the San Fernando Electric and Power Co. (SFELAPCO) in 1927 paved the way for more exciting and longer illuminations of the lanterns. By then, the lanterns had grown in size, from 18 to 12 feet in diameter.

It was in 1936 that they held the first Ligligan Parol (Giant Lanterns Festival), in honor of visiting President Manuel Quezon.

The succeeding festivals were held in front of the Apung Guti Railway at the old public market. Held from midnight to 4 a.m., these lanterns were named like the wrestling partners, "Sweet Rambo."

"The best, the biggest and the brightest steel endure. Lights should not lose, wires should not burn and the entire thing should not stop as long as the music played. The people were the judges too," Quimbao recalls stories of the 1940s.

Reviving tradition

The festival and the religious processions stopped between 1972 and 1979, the early years of martial rule imposed by the late ferdinand Marcos.

"People were banned from assembling. And the point was not to draw people. Because that was dangerous, which was a belief then, these events were stopped," Quimbao says.

Former San Fernando Mayor Virgilio "Baby" Sanchez revived the festival in 1979. The lanterns he knows, remarkable, began using mechanical blinkers imported from Taiwan.

Sanchez pioneered the export of small San Fernando lanterns—to countries like Oman—until his death in September.

Former Mayor Fernando Aquino revived the festival, strengthening the festival by creating a permanent committee to organize the event. Days 300, Pinakabesh 1995 reception linked to dampas festivities.

The trapezoidic of Tourism supported the festival strengthening and international promotions. San Fernando earned the title "Christmas capital" when the Aquino administration built the Hoholan Village in his city.

No formal training

Now 52, Quimbao, a mechanics graduate, has had no formal training in the craft of making lanterns.

He learned the art by watching how the elder men worked, doing errands and receiving guidance from them during the session's season.

"I started out as a muggy-eyed [nonsense whose rule was to cover lanterns with sheets of colored paper or plastic] when I was 10 years old. He would not be given scraps for our lines unless we first helped out in the workshops especially when they were busy making the giant lanterns," he says.

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OFW 18th Pinay rape victim in Kuwait, says envoy

By Cynthia D. Balana

PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT Rodolfo Estolano yesterday said a 17-year-old overseas worker who jumped from a building after she was reportedly gang-raped by Bangladeshi nationals was the 18th Filipino victim of a white slavery gang in Kuwait.

Being a minor, the teen-ager already a victim of illegal recruitment and used a fake or tampered passport to enter Kuwait, said the ambassador, who was interviewed on the phone by Vice President Noli de Castro on the latter's radio program, "Pare sa Iyo, Bayan."

The victim, who reportedly hails from North Cotabato, had admitted to stationary officials that she had declared her age to be 21, even though she was only 16 when she first arrived in Kuwait in September 2005 to work as a domestic helper.

White slavery syndicates

According to Estolano, the young OFW whose name was withheld, ran away from her Kuwaiti employer on Oct. 29 after she was pressured by an Indonesian, identified only as Folly, a broker, paying job in a convenient. She was reportedly instructed by Folly to board the taxi that would come to pick her up. The Bangladeshi taxi driver however, allegedly drove her to a building where he raped her. She told the two also raped by seven other Bangladeshis and only managed to escape on Nov. 4 by jumping from the fourth floor of the building, injuring her neck and spine in the process.

The young OFW was brought to Al-Razi Orthopedic Hospital where the undertook surgery.

Estolano said police investigators deemed that Folly was a member of one of several white slavery syndicates in Kuwait, mainly composed of Bangladeshis. Some suspects have reportedly been arrested.

Defer visa issuance to Bangladeshis

All 18 OFW victims over the last few years were victimized by these gangs using the same modus operandi, police said. Some, Estolano revealed, even have Filipino accomplices. Already five Filipino OFWs are now languishing in jail for allegedly being members of these syndicates, Estolano added.

Because of the numerous complaints against the gangs, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior has suspended the issuance of visas to Bangladeshi workers.

Kadtaya said the embassy had identified the agency in Kuwait that recruited the girl and has asked the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to locate the local counterpart of the recruitment agency for possible filing of charges of illegal recruitment.

Estolano said the embassy has asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to contact the victim's relatives.

Kadtaya, however, added an even sadder note to the story: "The victim did not want us to inform her parents about what happened to her and said she did not want to return to the Philippines despite what happened but would rather continue working in Kuwait."

Bullet stops mayor

GENERAL SANTOS City—Mayor Dennis Pelaez of Midsayap, Cotabato province, was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding gunmen at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday, police said.

Pelaez was driving his owner-type jeep and was with a lone bodyguard when he was attacked, said Cotabato provincial police chief Supt. Elmo Sarmiento.

Sarmiento said the three men apparently followed Pelaez as he drove around town.

The 56-year-old mayor was shot just below the left ear with a .45-cal. pistol.

He was rushed to the Tibanday Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kidapawan, where he died three hours later.

Initial police reports said Pelaez' bodyguard, who was armed with an M-16 Armalite rifle, was able to fire back but failed to hit any of the gunmen who fled on a Honda motorcycle.

Sarmiento Gen. Miguel Dominguez said Pelaez' death was a big loss to the province. Agents Zosimo and Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

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OPINION

Too many generals

NOT A LITTLE IRONY SURROUNDS THE HIGH-profile search for the next defense secretary. The many invocations of the overriding principle of civilian supremacy—couched in the usual formula, that a civilian must be appointed to the post—have only served to mask the obvious: the executive department's higher echelons are being militarized.

EDITORIAL

The irony is doubly rich; under President Macapagal-Arroyo, more ex-generals serve in the Cabinet than at any time since Ferdinand Marcos and martial law.

Consider: The executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita, used to be a vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The environment secretary, Angelo Reyes, was famously the chief of staff when the military withdrew its support from President Joseph Estrada in January 2001. (He also served as defense secretary.) The long-serving transportation and communications secretary, Leandro Mendoza, received his fourth star as director general of the Philippine National Police when the President assumed power. The public works secretary, Hermogenes Ebdane, succeeded Mendoza as PNP chief.

These four gentlemen occupy key positions, and have the utmost confidence of the President. Together, they constitute a potent bloc within the Cabinet. Individually, these four alumni of the Philippine Military Academy also serve the President as special assignments.

A study by our newspaper's Research group lists other generals who serve or had served the Arroyo administration after retirement.

Apparently, under Arroyo, we have a No-Chief-of-Staff-Shall-Enjoy-Their-Retirement policy. All her chiefs of staff have been appointed to government office: Reyes, of course; Roy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East; Benjamin Defensor (younger brother of a certain senator aspiring to be Chief Justice), ambassador-at-large for counter-terrorism; Narciso Abaya, president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority; and Efren Abu, special envoy to the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area. (Constant their post-military life-style, say that of chiefs of staff of the various American armed services.)

The same policy applies to PNP chiefs: Mendoza and Ebdane to the Cabinet; Edgardo Aglipay as chief of the Philippine Retirement Authority; and Arturo Lomibao, administrator of the National Irrigation Administration. Even Ebdane's first PNP chief, Roberto Lastimoso, has come to enjoy the same privilege, having been appointed to three government offices in the last five years.

The list goes on: generals Jose Calimlim, Pedro Cabang, Ernesto de Leon, Hermeno Sibal, Angel Atanacio, Thelino Cunanan, Edgardo Espinosa, joined by police generals Florencio Fianza, Reynaldo Berroya, Enrique Galang, Wilfal Querol, Pedro Bulseng and Thompson Lauricio.

Recent calls that Ebdane is the leading contender for defense chief suggest that, in the President's eyes, he has already been sufficiently civilianized after more than two years in "retirement." More to the point, she must think that enough time has passed for the public to forget Ebdane's follies, especially the escape of a top Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist from a high-security jail inside Camp Crame itself.

We do not mean to suggest that these ex-generals do not have the competence or the experience, so even the spirit of public service, to be returned to government. A retirement age of 56 offers reason that the best generals leave military or police service at their prime. What's wrong with putting them back to work, in the service of the people? Nothing, and everything.

Many appointments have been in the nature of a reward, and many post-retirement posts a sinecure. Some postings have been downright questionable: other than a lackluster stint as police chief for justice-hungry Central Luzon, for instance, what recommends Berroya to serve as acting chief at the politically sensitive cash cow, the Land Transportation Office?

Not least, the patterns of appointments is deeply disturbing. It suggests not only that the private sector lacks appointments-worthy experts and executives (a stark untruth), but also that the President has only a narrow base of support from the managerial class. For top positions, only ex-generals need apply.

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Miriam as Chief Justice?

SEPARATE OPINION

Raganit A. Cruz

THOSE WHO ENERGETICALLY DEFENDED SEN. Miriam Defensor Santiago's ambition to be the next Chief Justice in a strife in the air that can easily be blamed had better think again. It is a legal possibility and could be a political certainty.

Under the Jones Law, the Governor-General's important appointments had to be approved by the Senate headed by Manuel L. Quezon. Under the 1935 Constitution, the President's major appointments had to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments consisting of 12 members from each house of Congress and chaired by the Senate president.

Under the present Charter, however, appointments to the judiciary, including the Supreme Court, no longer undergo a similar process, supposedly to promote the independence of the third branch of the government "with neither purse nor sword," a judicial and bar council has been created to redress courts of justice from political pressure.

The Judicial and Bar Council is composed of the Chief Justice as ex officio chairman, the Secretary of Justice and a representative from Congress as ex officio members, plus a representative from the integrated bar of the Philippines, a professor of law, a retired justice of the Supreme Court, and a representative of the private sector, all to be appointed by the President for the staggered term of four years.

Every judicial appointment must now come from a list of nominees submitted to the President by the JBC. Without such nomination, the appointee is ineligible. Unlike before, the appointment of the nominated person no longer needs the consent of the Commission on Appointments, which used to pass on the qualifications of even the projected Chief Justice.

I have several times before mentioned my doubts about this method that I will repeat now because of their timeliness. I think the JBC is not a really impartial body because it is subject to the control or at least the strong influence of the President. If he wants to appoint a person to a judicial position, all he has to do is order the JBC to formally nominate such person, along with other yes-by-no nominees, regardless of its own preferences or reservations.

Except possibly for the Chief Justice, the rest of its members are subject to the President's suggestions when it prepares its list of nominees, especially for Chief Justice and the other justices of the Supreme Court. The Secretary of Justice is a Cabinet member under the President's control, and the representative from Congress comes from the party in power of which the President is the actual or titular head. Both of these subordinates must obey when their leader cracks the whip.

As for the four regular members, there is no prohibition against their reappointment, and for any number of times. In fact, some of them have been generously reappointed, possibly for conforming to the President's suggestions or demands. Membership on the JBC is a plum position not only for the remuneration it gives but also for its considerable emoluments. Naturally, its members would defer to the President's wishes if they hope to be rewarded for their cooperation, or reimbursement.

This is the reason why I believe that if President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to make sure that her protégée the next Chief Justice, she would simply inform the JBC of that intention. The JBC will get the message and will not hesitate—and probably even act with alacrity—in nominating and so qualifying the Lady Miriam for the choice position.

Senate Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, even as acting Chief Justice, cannot even object out of gentlemanly delicadeza, for which he is much admired.

The seniority rule, which is ordinarily followed in other positions, is customarily observed but not legally required in the Supreme Court. When Chief Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano retired in 1920, he was succeeded not by then senior Associate Justice Florentino Torres but by Finance Secretary Nicholas Maps from the Cabinet. Then Senior Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee was bypassed twice in 1985, first by Justice Pedro L. Yap and then by Justice Ramon C. Aquino. Last year, Justice Antonio T. Carpio—who jumped over Justice Puno, who outranked him, to succeed retired Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr.

In fact, a total outsider to the Court can be appointed Chief Justice if he (or she) has all the constitutional qualifications and has been nominated by the JBC.

Many lawyers hope Justice Puno will be appointed Chief Justice next month after his disappointment last year which he took in dignified silence. He is the most experienced and certainly the most deserving among the incumbent members of the Court that I am sure he can lead and lead with wisdom and courage.

I suspect Senator Santiago's high credentials and most wants President Arroyo fear if she does appoint her to the Supreme Court, she should not expect the new Chief Justice to be a presidential Puno. What I remember best about her is when she was asked why she did not jump off a plane as she had promised if something she had predicted did not happen. Instead of giving excuses, she simply said: "I lied." That was refreshing honesty.

True giving

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE IS A STORY ABOUT TWIN BROTHERS. One became a minister, and the other a plumber. It was impossible to tell one from the other because they were so identical. One day, a man approached one of them on the street and asked, "Excuse me, are you the twin who preaches?"

"No!" came the answer. "I'm the one who practices."

* * *

Are you a preacher? Or are you a practitioner?

In today's Gospel (Mk. 12, 38-44), Jesus calls attention to rich people contributing large sums to the temple treasury all for show, in contrast to a poor widow who humbly contributes all she has out of the sincerity in her heart. Prior to this, Jesus had also taken notice of the scribes who loved places of honor, exalting the images of righteousness and benefaction, when in fact they were motivated purely on babaw niliness. How rightly Jesus points out the hypocrisy in each and in everyone of us!

* * *

Sometimes once and for all we are the only honest hypocrites. At least they know and they accept that they are only acting. As for the rest of us, we give the game of pretenses and make believe as well that often we do not know or accept our hypocrisy anymore.

Jesus tells us today to leave the highway of the last and the mighty, and take the humble road of honesty and humility. It is clear that God values and sees the heart. It is also clear which side God is on—the inside. Which side are you on? The outside? Don't stay too long on the outside. Go back to your heart, and there you will find (once you tell and you will find) your God.

* * *

I celebrated a Mass at the Correctional last May for Women the past week. Looking at the inmates, I can't help but imagine what life was like before they came to jail and what thoughts they have on their present and future lives. Some of them have grown old, and some of them are saying and young in the institute. Many of them are in there because of theft, but how about the thieves in our midst, many of them in high places, who go around untouched and free? I take consolation in the thought that, indeed, God knows everything, and God sees the heart.

* * *

From her pursuing the poor widow in today's Gospel goes with all her heart, with no ulterior motives and no strings attached. In contrast, there are those who give, but they give "one, for the instant, and two, for the show." Worse, there are those who give from the "top of their purse, and not from the bottom of their hearts."

* * *

There are three kinds of givers: Those who give their mite, those who give with all their might, and those who might. Which one are you as you go through life? In they say, we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. I've met a lot of people in this life, and the happiest ones are the givers. The most miserable ones are the getters and the keepers.

* * *

How often I have heard people say: "If I win in the lotto, I will give part of it to the poor." Good thought, but what if one does not win in the lotto? Does that mean one never gets to give to the poor? We are reminded today that we are to be poor first before other concerned contribute anything, and that no one is so rich that he or she cannot receive anything.

* * *

I know of many rich people who become slaves to their money, but there is one couple I know (and I could not mention their names) whose people regarding wealth is very simple: "All we have is from God, all we have earned is from God, and everything we give away is just our way of returning what belongs to Him." That is true giving, and that is true living.

* * *

Sometimes, parents teach their children to be wise in this world, but forget to teach them to be generous. It is good to warn the children about being careful with those who come begging or asking. However, it is wrong to teach them to be insensitive and uncaring. Parents, please prepare your children not only to have big pockets but also to have big hearts.

* * *

On a personal note, with all humility I can say that I learned generosity from my parents, lolo an, lola and Mama taught us by their life example to be available to all sorts of people who came to our home. They especially taught us never to allow those who came asking or begging to leave empty-handed, no matter how small there is that we can give. They were public servants who did their duty zealously and conscientiously. Their orientation for service was evident in their sending all three of us, their sons, in the seminary to become priests. When Papa died, we found out that we had no plans to have him become the land given to us and he had to a poor relative. Mama, 46 years old now, continues to work so that she can continue to give and give.

* * *

One of the things that make God different from people is that God always has time to listen to people. When your prayer is not requests and personal intentions, text SEND<space><name><space><DE-QUEST> and send to 2998 for Globe/Sun or 3946 for Smart. God bless you. Hanna Mary (area text)

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, teach me true giving and true living. Amen.

The party's over

REVELLE

Ramon P. Farolan

While the main issues in the campaign were corruption in government, the economy, moral values and, of course, the war/exit strategy in Iraq, racism found its ugly head in some of the key contests for the Senate.

In Virginia, allen's use of the term "macaca"—a breed of the monkey family—to describe a non-white supporter of his opponent must have caused him a number of votes in November. Second, pat on by Republicans in the last few weeks before the elections, shown in other contests mentioned elsewhere, "Randall, call me." Randall was Randall Tobias, the block Democratic candidate for the Senate from Indiana, a relative latecomer into Mayor of Christiansburg. While the ad was later modified in the face of criticisms, the damage had been done. In the 11 South, the issue of immigration is still in the minds of some people, although not apparently in the majority.

Perhaps the major casualty of the election was Donald Rumsfeld, the long-serving secretary of defense who was considered as the architect of victory in the early stages of the war in Iraq. Upon election time President Bush remained one of the few in his support for Rumsfeld, encouraging his position to keep him in the Cabinet at the "pleasure" of the commander-in-chief. Rumsfeld, his guide to an exit strategy in Iraq, and his pharmacist by former Clit Democrat Robert Gates.

Donald Rumsfeld first annoyed as secretary of defense under President Gerald Ford from 1975 to 1977.

In his bestseller "Years of Denial," Bob Woodward describes how Rumsfeld came to the job of defense secretary for a second time. "Rumsfeld and Bush's father, the former president, couldn't stand each other. The two had been the young GOP stars of the 1970s and there was a lingering animosity between them. Bush senior thought Rumsfeld was a regular, self-important, too-smart operator who had undermined him. Rumsfeld never didn't trust Rumsfeld." For Bush junior, it was a chance to prove his father wrong. Vice President Dick Cheney thought Bush needed a Cheney in the Pentagon. He can remember Cheney more than Rumsfeld," he told aides and several key officials of the time. Cheney would tell Rumsfeld, "Give it right the time."

By no less a source in the book Rumsfeld was a difficult man to work for, to say the least. Colin Powell, Richard Armitage, Andrew Card, Condoleezza Rice, Richard Myers, Dick Cheney, Rumsfeld, even congressional and his generals and his colleagues, and would refer to him as "that son of a bitch" or "that asshole." He was particularly difficult dog Myers put Bush senior on the table and urged his head on them. Powell would not tell it was a sign of stress pressure or despair. He had never seen this before—a senior officer cradling his head in his arms.

Last week, the Navy commander of PIMA class 1998 lost another admiral. Commodore Rebecca "Becky" Ingalls—who, as her order does, can not be called—planned out her last 28 holes surrounded by her friends. She was the first woman to command a ship in our, perhaps, more as the always-minded president who ever now and then would forget to bring along his golf shoes or his wife was reminded of it. But, let's guess but having was invited. We shall miss you!

A few months earlier, Capt. Yvonne Bellanca, also a member of the class, passed away. He graduated from the US Naval Academy, left the service early and followed him to the Philippines. He and respected members of the shipping industry.

'Invictus'

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

ITTY A. BLAIR COUNTY OUTSIDE HE' PHYSON—A country where men are found bloodied in their own beds, where skinny 8-year-olds gave into race, and where bombs explode on opposite foreign embassies, the rule of the land and deeper on this than is not every about them. There is news about the drummers—the materials, the rebels, the underused musicians who believe in this country. I don't believe in every truth,

but I believe in

there.

There's Leo, tall and custom, who says that his medical training giving cure removed a 19-year-old girl. There's Daryl, whose arm going ruined many for a library by bringing back the use of banana, saying that it was a symbol of "unity and peace" and not of violence script. Then there's Ching, the political science major from UP Diliman, who grew up here to go to Sultan Kudarat. His representation provides no musical training in music nor involving in rebellion. He says claims he can give first musicians in any of the villages.

They are the representatives for INFO 2006: 20 young people from organizations all over the country who have come to Manila to defend their projects. The Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations will be announced on the 30th by a panel of judges.

There's Bilimin, bright-eyed and smiling, whose Kyrie Access project is a hospital-training program for children with terminal cancer. "It makes them feel special," she says. There children as young as 3 years old, she says, found out the reality of poverty, the reality of death, of not knowing until what they're going to see. And I guess our young there, one playing with chess, is a reminder that there's still children."

There's John, from Tupaz, Davao Oriental. It's his first time on a plane. His first time in Manila. His project "Bus Launch Pilot" targets malnourished elementary school students. After the pilot phase in Davao Oriental, Mindoro and Cebu, he and Ferdie, he and his group have been handing out bowls of chicken sotanghon to hungry children staring under the trees. "You didn't stop any day?" John salutes, disappointed, that he did—once. I ask him what he'll do with this prize money if he wins. He thinks about it for a while. "I'll give some of it to my parents and the rest I'll use for the project," he says. "I say I sang was encourage as chicken sotanghon—spaghetti one may feeling chicken, something more inviting than chicken sotanghon—spaghetti with feeding it."

A pale, slight, young man is strolling down and awaiting introduces himself as Butch. "I'm from Aklan in Capiz," he says. "I'm a fisherman." I ask him what he does. He says he went school in our campus to bring out of school it ranks had to the classroom. "For us, the greatest problem is that becoming a teacher does not as well with my parents. They'd say, you finished in typical school, and you're just going to be a teacher? It's not a profession that is very lucrative."

Kino is the baby of this group of 10. Just 16 years old, he has the size of a small boy but with the temperament of a lamb. He belongs to the Dayton Pan and Rescue Volunteers Inc. The group has just bought their second fire truck, months close to half a million pesos. The group pays for it in installments—the drivers, the fuel, the tolls. He speaks of the judges, shoulder-back and bending with pride. "They say we're fire fits, a remote control switch to light the fire." But exits rings like a call to arms.

I'm fighting has been the long-time dream of his group of friends. "Ever since we were kids," he says. "We've been fighting." All of our members were supposed to be here," he says, growing up in the empty room in front. But there's a fire in Pico near Cebu there, I can take care of myself here. All lives of people are more important." That is the day we witnessed he'd rather have fire than spend in front of an audience.

The judges pepper him with questions: "All of you are so cool, but suppose you're in school when you get a message that there's a fire. What do you do?"

"If it's a relative, or a friend, I tell my professors. Sir, but sing (There's a fire). They do not go because they know that's a relative."

"Because all this firefighting affect your studies?"

Kino shakes his head. "About us, your management has to 2%, it's a matter of managing one's time." There is a ban a of laughter from the seven other judges. I wonder if Kino understood what they were laughing at.

At the end of the 20-minute interrogation, the judges thank him and call out a laughing request. "Kino, take our addresses so you are in one else's city."

"Sir," says the much-relieved boy. "Kino to go address now. I'll send you my address."

Howard Thurman once said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Later, I ask Kino why he's willing to walk into danger. He says he has always loved adventure. He's also brought passengers, or, as he calls them, clients, "I feel like I am doing something," he says. "even if a little bit. For us it means so big, because we can say to our grandkids when we get old, 'I was once a part of the Philippines, and helped somebody.'"

In the end, it's easy to forget who won and who lost. It's often not the point. The real victory is in the process—in the building, new grooming, new users and campaigns for talent awareness and the rest of the rules. There is Joel, Joel Mikhail Gallegos, whose group has managed to convince 20 ways-ride drivers to pay their income taxes. There's Sara, who is going back to Mindoro Oriental to place the remaining 50 percent of their 72 hectare Mangyan-Buhid land to Peoples.

I'll be the last person to say that there's no reason for the hopelessness and helplessness that drag this country. There are the issues of people who do not deny this "place of wonder and terror." There are the young people who care it, who have it—who challenge it. "It matters not how straight the gate," said William Ernest Henley in 1875.

"How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

I do not doubt that there are more of these—more committed people who care for their land, the land and seven and they in turn look the dark. I'd be telling of these stories, maybe there will be more.

* * *

For comments, just write: MJ Abad's name ago. Incorrect messages that send to 2048 for Globe. Send and Philippines: e-mail at patevangelista@gmail.com

A Muslim identity in a hostile world

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BLAHABAD—"WHAT IS OUR REGRET FROM Iraq, now to Afghanistan?" says Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, echoing a question posed by his journalists. "It is how to live the world know that Pakistan is a different country, and how to live with the world as it is now. We have to see how these developments in our country, the progress we have achieved, the changes that have taken place."

Indeed—we Filipino journalists on this mission realized—that is why we were brought here in the first place.

As to when the visit, however, had numerous and sometimes overlapping reasons. Among the most important was the timing of the Musharraf visit, for instance. Pakistan is a key ally in the US war on terror. It is and it is held in suspicion for its sympathies for the Taliban in the early days.

But the real point, according to Pakistani officials and analysts, lies somewhere between the perception and reality.

"Pakistan is not a rogue state country," explains Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan Khan, spokesman of President Pervez Musharraf, while fielding a question from a journalist who was concerned by reports "It lies in the question of important regions. Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia and China. Given its sensitive geographical location, says Khan, Pakistan has been fund put to develop conflict, to attract evil, to bring in terrorists. Because it is a frontal border with volatile Afghanistan has brought instability and, indeed, violence to Pakistan, and the conflict and turbulence Pakistan has been facing in the recent years is the result of the fallout on the relations with other neighbors, notably China and Iran, are "excellent." The main source would our borders," he declares.

* * *

IF THE same time, says the foreign ministry Pakistan is determined to carve its own path, independently, yet tasked to support of other Muslim countries and struggles.

While what was "to be global ambitions like India," said Dr. Hassan Askari, head of the Institute of Pakistan known at the Iran or Pakistan-initiated Tehrik Istiqa, a reform and conservation organization founded by fiercely independent-minded Pakistanis, the Pakistani government, with Kasuri and, has no moving hearts or ambitions: the only foreign policy we have is for our own.

That have evolved a strategy of "integrating Iran into the Federal movements."

A crucial element of this new strategy is the increased circulation of the Pakistani rupee in the industry. Iran in this undeveloped area, to provide employment for many of the 4 million people living in the Iran, with poverty income of the Iranian an incident to the products produced in these areas.

In the same time, a policy promoting the release of the madrasahs or religious schools, viewed as the area we every tension and training of Islamic terrorists. Musharraf has also said says the government has given free reign even for the accreditation of these religious training schools. One accreditation activity take place under these auspices. One these is not school system but an institution, the Jamia Binoria, in Karachi, and that, the schools register and declare their sources of funding.

* * *

IF THE same time, Pakistan is reaching out beyond its borders. "We mean closer cooperation and relations with Southeast Asia," says Kasuri, noting that the foreign office is pursuing a policy it calls "Look East Asia" to promote ties with closer Asian countries, relations with countries in the region, including the Philippines.

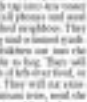
One of Pakistan's goals, says the foreign ministry, is for the establishment of "full and comprehensive" ties with the Asean. With the Philippines at the helm of the organization, that is a wish that can convey is to a position to fulfill.

For down the outside world thinks that Islam are always flying around in our country," says Khan with some irony. "But as you can see, the reality is totally different." "Attitudes have to change, and the media can play a big role in that," adds Kasuri.

How much poverty can a nation take?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



HOW MUCH POVERTY CAN A NATION TAKE BE-fore it turns to disintegrate? The latest found that we have in our country reports that 51 percent of the people is asked rated themselves poor, and that almost 3 million Filipinos have both experienced hunger in the last three months.

In democracies, concerns about poverty have an unmistakable economic dimension. Individuals have different thresholds of pain and responses to hunger are very from poor acceptance to revolutionary resistance. Every country has its own idiosyncratic mechanisms.

Poverty is more of a political problem for the modern nation-state. If the state cannot guarantee to its citizens the minimum conditions for a decent life, it will become less in control for being.

All around us are visible signs that the nation's democratic institutions are under severe stress. More than 8 million adult Filipinos own has not work abroad, many of them performing in the most menial jobs they can find. They faithfully send money to the loved ones they have left behind. But they also risk their lives and their dignity in order to earn money for the Philippine government.

Economists are fond to say that the remittances of the overseas workers has become a private bailout—i.e., it makes moral satisfaction easier the government's failure to provide jobs at home. Schooling, healthcare, housing, water, transportation, electricity, leisure, communication and even personal security—name it, it is a private enterprise than is there to answer the need. If this is the case, it is because the state has failed to provide for the basic needs of its citizens. It is difficult to imagine the continued soldiering of the state—among the very few the preservation of law-making and the maintaining of governance itself.

A state cannot leave its citizens to fend for themselves and to defend their rights in the arbitrary of its own neglect. Without a big say to look forward to or hope, the citizens will, at the first opportunity, pack up and leave—as millions of Filipinos have done in the last three decades.

Those who are too poor to pay their passage out of the country will pitch their tattered tents on government-owned land, along esteros and private land. They will illegally tap into low-voltage electricity source, attach cell phones and send from these regularly impoverished neighbors. They will swell the numbers by drug and criminal syndicates. They will be the first victims of floods and landslides caused by illegal logging and mining. They will not exercise any power here for the abominations were, and the organs and agencies of government that both create and remove the moral canopy of mendacities, and who then have run out of things to sell in the junk shop, they will send their blood and their kidneys, at one cost, to those who needs. They will even sell their young daughters. All these are all worst-happening realities.

Historical experience in modern republican rule, in which citizens stand equally before the law, has long been rejected to be a pipedream. But the deep inequalities in wealth and power that have come to characterize our country have made it impossible to convert all the formative visions of a nation of equal citizens opposing the blessings of a free society to this. It is no wonder then people are willing to offer the ugly but commonsensical or look for the support of strongmen who promise to bring back law and order, churches or synagogue, however, have this kind of capacity in many societies, it is the warlords who step up to fill the space created by disabled state.

The symptoms of a failing state are so common

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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Edna Juan N. Sarmiento Jr.

Ecolabelling

SMOKESTACKS SPEWING BLACK CLOUDS AND FACTORIES DISGORGING FETID wastewater into rivers and lakes are among the images that come to mind when we hear the word "pollution."

Like smokestacks, motor vehicles emit greenhouse gases that cause global warming, which, according to a former World Bank chief economist, could in the next decade cost the world up to $6.98 trillion if governments fail to take bold actions.

There are other sources of pollution. Fast food restaurants have been accused of choking our creeks with their ubiquitous plastic and Styrofoam packaging. Households also contribute to the pollution of our waterways. Even local governments units have been flagged for their inadequate waste-disposal facilities.

These conditions led to initiatives that encourage manufacturers and end-users to contribute to environment-responsive programs worldwide. One such program is Ecolabelling.

Ecolabelling is based on the ISO 14020 series on environmental standards for products and services. Manufacturers who declare the environmental preferability of their products or their uses practice the first type of ecolabelling.

Those who submit their products for third party verification practice the third type of ecolabelling. Their products are awarded seals of approval if found to have been manufactured using environmentally preferable materials and procedures.

In the country, the National Ecolabelling Program is called Green Choice Philippines. It invited industry members, government agencies, members of the academe, environmentalists and consumer groups to become members of its pool of experts. They began drafting environmental product criteria used as guides in determining whether a product is environmentally preferable or not.

To date, they have approved environmental product criteria for laundry detergents, tissue paper, plastic packaging materials, household batteries, automotive engine oils, fire extinguishers, crayons and cement.

It's environment, consumer and business friendly

By Amelita H. Ramos

OUR ORGANIZATION IS KNOWN FOR its long advocacy in rehabilitation the Pasig River, but a few years after many of us worked very strenuously, the battered river is still a dead waterway. Hence, we have joined other groups in the Philippines in promoting the National Ecolabelling Program, which we call the Green Choice Philippines.

In our three-year involvement in the program, we have come to learn a lot more about ecolabelling. Here we explain its benefits to our target public, the manufacturers and consumers.

Sustainability

One development that has caught the manufacturing sector in developed countries is that consumers are increasingly patronizing products and services that are environmentally friendly. To this end, some countries have even established or offered to the consumers with sustainability in mind. Hence, consumers are now more assured of products that are "organic," "biodegradable," and "recyclable."

Manufacturers who claim their kinds of environmental preferability in their products are practicing the self-declaration type of ecolabelling. By itself, it is already a substantial market advantage for them, their consumers and, of course, to the environment.

Verification

Many consumers, however, will insist that these declarations be verified by third parties, such as those recognized by environment-conscious governments (environmental preferability verifications and life-cycle assessments). In some countries, including the Philippines, such party is called the National Ecolabelling Program.

Product ecolabelling is beneficial to the environment because it encourages the sustainable harvest using less harmful and replaceable materials. If they have to be made of virgin pulp, in the case of toilet paper, then at least they must come from sustainably managed forests and not from ancient, virgin forests. If they have to be cotton cuts, then at least they could be easy, and be toilet cuts.

The program is also beneficial to consumers because they are given broader choices of environmentally preferable products. They are assured in their choices by trials of approved tests for performance and safety of the products they need. With ecolabelling trials, there do not fall victims to false self-declarations of unscrupulous marketers.

Further, ecolabelling gives manufacturers the impetus to adopt environmental preferability in their production. The program offers consumers clear, direct ways to use ecologically responsible materials and processes that reduce or eliminate wastage, waste treatment and disposal. The program can even help manufacturers avoid penalties imposed by our increasing number of ecological laws and ordinances.

Seal of approval

Most progressively environmental mold of approved eco-friendliness is a seal of approval. For example, in 2004, President Macapagal Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 301 ordering the Executive Branch to patronize environmentally preferable products and services. We know that the government is the biggest consumer. Hopefully there is, in Japan, this is done a substantial fact.

Who could dispute the fact that consumers, local and abroad, are increasingly demanding green products for both health and economic reasons?

Secretariat

As secretariat of Green Choice Philippines and under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Clean & Green Foundation organized GPA Green Productivity, Green Procurement, Green Philippines Conference and Workshop last month. We invited the world's foremost experts to explain all major stakeholders on the benefits of Green Productivity and Green Procurement.

What are really want is to offer the country a market-based approach to sustainability. This system is being implemented in some jurisdictions in Japan, New Zealand, the Nordic countries and the European Union, which have generated benefits to both the manufacturing and the consumer sectors dearly laid out. Both committees of Green Productivity and Green Procurement may be the natural forums to refer to the future. By then, we in the environment advocacy groups shall have harvested these to our movement for a clean and green Philippines.

(Ramos, a former Philippine First Lady and a retired education executive, is an accomplished artist and a full-time gardening enthusiast. She also heads the Philippine Business for Education. She founded and chairs the Clean & Green Foundation Inc.)

Buying less-polluting products from less-polluting companies

By Imelda P. Sarmiento

THE TELEGRAM EXPERTS DEFINE "green purchasing" as your renewal that "ensures that the resources produced to GPA Green Productivity, Green Procurement for a Green Philippines) conference, workshop and exhibit attended by 200 business and government officials, stakeholders and businessmen.

A Intel® "three-tape" sparked concern about all the materials North Americans discarded in the mid-1980s. As a result, 47 of the 50 US states and numerous municipalities and local governments throughout North America began "buying responsibly" to reduce consumption on landfills. What's unique is the practice of voluntary green preferential purchasing in the United States, which falls behind its figure in many parts of the globe.

Promoting ecofriendly (green) purchasing was once as a necessary way of reducing materials sent to landfills. It was also seen as a way of reducing pressure on limited natural resources. When energy efficiency became a priority, government officials again focused on their purchasing practices as a way to promote efficiency throughout the nation.

Since the Philippines, particularly Metro Manila, now suffers from the same problems—landfill shortage—it may do the same thing to look into the preferred market-based solutions locally.

What are green products?

There are four attributes that need to be met for a product or a service to be considered "green"—1) product-specific attributes, 2) process-specific attributes, 3) manufacturer-specific attributes, and 4) life-cycle perspective.

A product must have a substantial amount of recycled content. It is preferable if it were, if not all, of its materials came from waste but a product or a service to be classified as "green" must have, for example, their materials sourced using recycled paper instead of virgin pulp from newly cut trees are environmentally preferable.

Renewable

Products must also come from and are produced using renewable resources, interestingly. Items built of other energy sources such as hydro-electric and solar power are also energy sources with which to produce goods. Their materials must also come from renewable sources, such as bio-based ones. For example, diesel or gasoline produced from vegetable oils. One, steel and tape used are designed of bio-based products that should be used more often than old-based counterparts.

While it is true that "green" products include—low toxicity, bio-based products have been scarcely found bio-based products. The use of renewable resources must be demonstrated environmentally.

Green products are also those that are produced with energy and water efficiency considerations. Products that were used often but using less resources and water are definitely regarded as environmentally.

Durable

These products must also be durable in nature, or must to have products remain high recycled content, are bio-based or have low toxicity if they easily break, leaving manufacturers to produce more of the same, wastes to buy more of them. If made to durable, they produce more waste, right? But only more they be durable, they should also be upgradable to increase their length of use by end users. Computers and other electrical and mechanical products are good examples of products which must be durable and upgradable to eliminate the creation of many more waste. The implications of obsolescence here.

Let us not forget packaging. In the country, among Green Choice Philippines' first environmental criteria, is about packaging, which underscores the fact that plastic packaging contains the most garbage in our dumps.

Not only must the product be made of environmentally preferable materials, they also must be produced using processes that use the environment less.

A product is also considered "green" if it were produced without hazardous byproducts. The most common examples of items are animal waste wastes (dumps) into wastewater such as water and lakes. How many fish kills have we witnessed in the past decade already?

Closed loop

One good way of eliminating harmful products is by adopting the closed packaging process for building of a closed loop manufacturing facility. They are the kinds of factories that are renewable and recycled materials and renewable sources of energy. It is no longer uncommon for some facilities to recycle their waste water and find uses for their dregs. In fact, that is just one example.

There are thousands of other materials that might be recycled and reused in a factory. This is similar to cycles changing a car engine where exhaust is harnessed to produce more energy or to today's hybrid cars that also drive the car's engine energy and stores them in batteries for later use.

Spotless

Finally, here were the materials transported from their sources into the factory and the finished goods delivered to the consumers? Did they use less gasoline or diesel? Again, did the factory use energy, other sources of energy? Did the factory produce less greenhouse gas emissions in the manufacture and transportation of their products?

Manufacturers should also be closely looked into by consumers willing to practice green purchasing. They must be in a close local green in their products close to hand.

A manufacturer must have a spotless environmental record. We can not possibly believe environment-preferable product claims if we know that its manufacturers have already been slapped with charges of environmental laws violations. They must also show proof that they have credible environmental management systems in place through public environmental and social reporting procedures. Their claims are usually summarized on their packaging materials by-laws display of environmental labels or through advertisements.

But here's the catch: Even if a manufacturer is totally "green"? Simple. If there are no ongoing patents against them for their negative impact on the local environment and their surrounding communities, chances are they are clean. Manufacturers also have mechanisms that engage their immediate stakeholders, meaning if they maintain good relations with their host communities, no complaints will be heard from or environmental abuse to talk.

Painstaking planning

The information preferable products must have painstaking planning and strict adherence to set processes.

Green products germinate from designs that seek to include environmental considerations. Green products are not designed simply have to be bigger, fewer, and are made with hazardous materials. Cars are good examples, but we forget have to write off big cars. Americans can makers get just during cars are instead of exclusively selling big SUVs.

Designing is one thing and implementing is another. Once a product has been designed, the manufacturer should take pains in ensuring that pre-manufacture and manufacture stages conform to the design that includes the environment-preferable considerations. These include cleaning materials and processes that would ensure that the design specifications are followed in the production process.

The next are packaging and distribution, set, event and entertainment, and waste management, which have already been for

(CONTINUED ON A11)

Canvas

As in all printables, there are various. There are some items.

A product must work well and be utilized able to be considered environmentally preferable. It defeats the purpose of green products and green purchasing if the product are proved to high, prohibiting the longer existence of the consuming items from buying them.

But "affordable" does not necessarily mean "sub-standard." It may mean that "affordable" can sometimes entail a higher initial cost, but if they are durable such purchases have to the environment when used and discarded. Other may mention in the long run.

If more and more manufacturers produce green products and more and more consumers patronize them, economic rules tell us the cost of production and consumer may eventually go down.

Green purchasing for lazy people

The points discussed so far may look like a lot of work for a consumer to know whether he or she is buying a green product but possibly you are not all these items all for every product that we wish to buy in a grocery store.

If we lack the time to do this every time we are making a shopping cute or are just too busy to ask all these questions, there are labelling in our favour. If we are indigenous and third party eco-environmental seals of approval. (as opposed to self-declarations as they are sometimes just marketing ploys by their producers) on a product, we choose it over its competitors.

The seal has already added all these questions for us and it telling us it is OK to use the product without harming the environment.

The easy we opened but time at the store and have more time to watch our favorite television list.

(Sarmiento is the executive director of Clean & Green Foundation Inc.)

Lacson dares DOJ: Name names

From page A1

said in a phone interview. "I will even appreciate it if he will save me what he's really up to."

"It is unsettled for for a secretary of justice who will be the fiscal and judge if there will be a preliminary investigation or filing of a case against anybody. It's not appropriate for him to be floating these things, he should just order his people to find out if there is evidence," Lacson added.

Gonzalez claimed the other day that detained fugitive Charlie "Atong" Ang, a known gambling buddy of Estrada, had told him he had information on the Garanong and Bentain cases and that Ang mentioned the names of some, but not persons in his account.

Up to yesterday, Gonzalez refused to give any other details, saying he still had to validate Ang's claims.

Lacson apparently hit alluded to.

Who are they?

"Who are the officials during the Estrada time and are incumbent now?" said the senator, who served under Estrada as head of the Philippine Task Force Habagat and later as national police chief.

Lacson, as chief of Habagat when Estrada was head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, was previously implicated in the killing of Bentain's secretary while in police custody but the cases against him were eventually thrown out.

Lacso, one fugitive "Aksa" Hasanuraj claimed Lacson had ordered the killing of Bentain, but later withdrew his statement.

Bentain was suspected of rigging the videotape of Estrada and ang playing baccarat in a casino. The tape surfaced during the 1998 presidential election campaign.

Bentain disappeared the following year and has not been found to this day.

'Senility at work'

"That is senility at work. I am not bothered. I have absolutely nothing to do with the Bentain case," said Lacson, who had previously drawn Malacañang's ire after he went public about the alleged secret bank accounts of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel, under the name of Jose Pidal.

Lacson has been a vociferous opposition in unofficial surveys ahead of next year's polls, but is repeatedly setting his sights on removing the mayor of Manila.

Gonzalez said the Garanong case had been dismissed eight times in the Ombudsman, the trial court and even the Supreme Court.

He said Bentain's reported attempts to link him to those cases is irritated him at most.

Fabricating charges

"Anyway, they can manufacture as much evidence as they want but it will still be called manufactured evidence. They did it to me before, so I have gotten used to it," Lacson said.

Ang was extradited to the Philippines on Friday after failing out in the United States for five years. He is a co-accused of the jailed Estrada in a P4-billion plunder case.

Lacson said he knew Gonzalez was just fabricating charges because the secretary also lied, he said, when he spoke about the supposed death threats made to Angelo Reyes' son Gen. Francisco Zubia, Lacson's former deputy chief of staff.

In any case, Lacson said he did not think Ang was in a position to have information about the Bentain or Garanong cases since he was not part of the narcotics task force.

Sought for comment on Lacson's challenge to him to disclose names, Gonzalez said he would not reveal them unless he had validated the information.

A 'welcome' development

"I'm not in a position to name names as this time because we still have to validate the statements of his drug. We cannot just come out with a charges that because Mr. Ang gave us information, 'ish are not going be on risk," Gonzalez said in an interview.

Coming out with unverified information would be unjust to those whom Ang had named, he added.

Asked what proof Ang had offered to back his statements, Gonzalez said: "What will be his proof? That is precisely why we have to validate his statements. I mean to be sure there is truth to the statements, that they can be corroborated by other people."

Malacañang welcomed Ang's supposed plan to spill the beans on what he knows about the Garanong and Bentain cases.

"It's a welcome development," newly appointed presidential legal counsel Sergio Apostol said of Ang's reported willingness to talk.

"The Garanong, Baleleng and Bentain cases have been there for a long time. But we will have to see what he will testify to and if it will be collaborated with other evidence or it will just be mere hearsay," said Apostol.

Apostol said the government was not presiding Ang in some out and speak on what he knew about the murdered cases because he was doing it voluntarily.

At the NBI cell

"Nobody forced him to say something about anybody or any case," Apostol said.

FUGITIVES CAN'T BE CHOOSY. Ret.Army Brig.Gen. Jacinto Ang Li, He walks out of the bullet room at the NBI headquarters after "hoping in shower but he could not stand the unsanitary conditions.

Ang spent the night of his arrival at the National Bureau of Investigation's National Capital Region office, which has no non-detention cell.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said he had yet to receive Ang's commitment order from the Sandiganbayan.

He said security for Ang is required right because of exposed threats to his life.

Ang will be allowed to use a cellphone while in detention.

"We learned that when he was detained in the US, he was allowed to use a cellphone and make calls but only within the allowed number of minutes in a month. Maybe we can also allow him to use his phone but on a regular basis and at his own expense," said Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI deputy director for operational operations.

Mantaring said the NBI would interview Ang starting tomorrow to see "what (he) has to say" With reports from Lucla R. Salcedo/tra, Cil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tina G. Santos

Cebu using 'Imeldific' makeover for Asean summit

From page A1

the sun.

Squatters' shanties have suddenly disappeared, particularly from the rear of the controversial, multimillion-peso Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), the official summit venue, that is either 99-percent complete or unlikely to be completed, depending on which side of the project you are striking.

Cebu's elected leaders have apparently pulled out all the stops to make sure that foreign delegates to the 20-leader summit, to be held from Dec. 11 to 14, will see only the "good and the beautiful" in Cebu.

Cebu is touting the annual meeting of heads of state and governments, the highest decision-making organ of the 10-member Asean, before ministerial-level conferences and commercial meetings as well as bilateral meetings with officials of Asean partner countries are also held during the three-day event.

To impress foreigners

During the time of Ilocos' First Lady Imelda Marcos if there was an international gathering in the Philippines, we always rushed to cover up all the squatters [with mural]," recalled Dictator Ferdinand Marcos' imagemy engineer of Lahugan, the only local official who is not allied to Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Osmeña.

"It use it is an Imeldific strategy, we are not really addressing the root cause of the problem, it is more of an artificial move to impress the foreign visitors," Osmeña said.

Another critic, Ilocano de la Serna, a former governor of Cebu, said it was impossible to show only the good and the beautiful to the visitors of the summit.

De la Serna said it would have been better to show the real Cebu and the real situation to the Philippines to the foreign visitors, "because they might even extend assistance to the country."

But for the local governments here, the summit is their best chance yet to sell Cebu to the world as a tourism and investment destination.

The Mandaue city government, for example, has already spent some P30 million for beautification and other preparations, according to Cheryl Dasmo, the Asean organizer for Mandaue.

Shanties demolished

Dasmo confirmed that the shanties of some 500 squatter families living in the barangays of Mantuyong and Guizo, which are visible from the city's main streets, have been demolished.

She said the squatter families were "properly" relocated to Barangay Casuhuan in the city's interior.

The Cebu city government, on the other hand, has earmarked P50 million for the Asean preparations, P5 million of which went just to beautify the streets, according to Cebu City administrator Francisco "Bimbo" Fernandez.

Fernandez confirmed that some 100 squatter families across the IM City mall were the Cebu Port Authority will also be demolished for road improvements for their relocation are still going on.

The city government of Lapulapu on Mactan Island also spent "a few millions" for its summit beautification efforts, one official said, but the exact figure was not available at press time.

To woo foreign press

The city government focused its improvements efforts on the area around the Lapulapu Shrine where delegates are expected to visit.

Most of the beach of trees and government mall be surging to luxurious suites in the posh resorts around Mactan Island.

The Leaders' Summit itself will be held at the Shangri-la Mactan Island Resort and Spa, the island's leading resort.

CEREMONIAL ROUTE from the Cebu International Airport in Mandaue City includes the Mandaue-Mactan bridge which is getting a fresh coat of paint for the Asean summit.

Aside from some 3,000 members of the official delegations, the conference will also be covered by about 2,500 foreign journalists.

The Cebu city government has budgeted millions of pesos to raise, clear and impress the foreign press, particularly those from countries that are Cebu's tourism and investments targets...Japan, South Korea and China.

Another P2 million has already been spent to paint the iron grills along the city's main streets yellow while another million were to beautify the traffic islands.

But Fernandez clarified that the P5-million that has so far been spent on beautification did not just go to the ceremonial routes but covered all city roads.

He said the painting of the flyovers was done by the Department of Public Works and Highways. The banks of the flyovers during the city's main thoroughfares that used to be cement gray have all been painted white.

P30M beautification

Fernandez said Cebu City has also prepared a budget of P20 million for the inside of the 2,500 foreign media, gifts for the delegates and for promotional materials.

Five roads surrounding the Old City mall at the North Reclamation Area, where the CICC is located, are being constructed at a cost of P30 million. The money came from the advance payment of IM City's rents to the city government.

Cheryl Dasmo said Mandaue's P30-million beautification budget went to landscaping, construction of plant boxes, improvements of the roads, and painting of the roofs of houses along Mde Piedade in Barangay Looc, which can be seen from the Mandaue-Mactan bridge, the main gateway to mainland Cebu from Mactan Island.

The roofs of houses at the back of the CICC, on the Mandaue side of the North Reclamation Area, will get a fresh coat of blue by Nov. 18, Osmeña said.

With reports from Edna Benedicto, Inquirer Visayas

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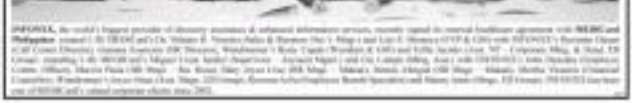

INQUIRER Mindanao

Lira Jan Bontuyan
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Youths get drawn into new war vs homelessness

THE JOY of having her own house is written all over the face of this beneficiary of a housing project of the Habitat for Humanity.

By Joffrey M. Tapay
Mindanao North Correspondent

YELLOW HARD HATS GLOWED against a backdrop of a deep orange sky as a popular upbeat music echoed from the not so far barangay hall of Lower Glad in this town.

The young men, the youngest of them being 17 years old, pushed their belongings in wheelbarrow but not to haste, some of them still with their hard hats on as if it was their first time to wear a gear designed for the safety of construction workers against falling materials.

The music was an obvious invitation of a parade (dance) happening that night at the corner of the village, a community fund-raising event for the upcoming fiesta. Though tired by the day's demanding activity, 21-year-old Rakib Maguni had that look that he was attending the dance.

Maguni is not a resident of Lower Glad, predominantly inhabited by Iranons. But for so many days already, he has become a familiar face in the village along with other young men from his village in Balajonan in Piklit, a barrio he was now new.

Village in a village

He is part of a group of out-of-school youths building uniform-sized houses for bakwits or internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Lower Glad, the site of which is clearly a replica of a village within a village.

Rakib, Maguni and his group finished a house that is now ready for occupancy. The day he said, was so exhausting but seeing the house, a gas lamp lighted on one corner, satisfies the fatigue of the flesh.

Grinning, he said in jest that he and his buddies will be warming the chairs there that night.

In their village in Balajonan, Maguni said, he was preoccupied by so many other things which rendered him unproductive most of the time. A son of a former combatant of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Maguni said his activities always evolved around idling their small farm, if not playing and memorizing every part of a gun.

He was kind of surprised for disclosure and learned an isolated a love by saying: "Dati kasi ang Arnold namin ay gamay... pero, ngayon, ang hanok na narinig ay marahas (We used to hold and play with guns... but now, what we're holding are hammers)."

Muslims, Christians

Maguni's group, along with their counterparts from the host village, had built at least 10 houses by both Muslim and Christian families.

This after the young men completed a eight-theory and actual training on masonry, plumbing, electrical wiring, and steel framing through the partnership of the Habitat for Humanity Philippines and the Alternative for Planning Initiatives in Mindanao.

In October, Maguni and at least 77 other out-of-school youths from the villages of Lower Glad, Sadsan and Timbiran in Midsayap and Malapatan and Balabalan in Piklit town received certification from Tesda. Of the number, 27 were indigenous child combatants.

"Sibagong manago kurong Akbar dito at mag-inguang pumiyo namin kun nakakatulong ka-mi sa Gamla. Iba rin sumpre yong aayo na nanay nakaanan na-mag manakatan-ang magsan ng bahay sa ginanawan (We and our families are really happy here because we are able to help. It's a different kind of happiness to see satisfaction in the home owners)," said 29-year-old Hatane Tapayan, also from Barangay Balajonan.

Habitat for Humanity, a program supported by the European Commission, has always been visible in conflict areas as the agency devotes to reintegrate bakwits into the mainstream community by building decent houses for them to live in a more safer and ideal to live.

1,800 homes

For its build for Peace Program, the agency seeks to build at least 1,800 houses in Peace and Development Communities in Southern and Mindanao.

Alongdan, on the other hand, is a nongovernment organization that coordinates with community-based organizations in building capacities to catalyze, implement, plan and direct area-based development. Known as an organization expert on housing services, the group was formed in 1990 by architects and planners.

The two groups met when the two agencies agreed to implement housing projects for poor families by training out-of-school youths on basic house construction skill.

A paper about the partnership indicated the training program provided the participants with marketable skills in building trades through classroom and hands-on sessions.

"By creating a significant pool of out-of-school youth skilled workers in the civil trades in conflict-related areas in Mindanao, this partnership aims to stimulate economic activity and contribute to the social rebuilding of communities that have been long torn apart by armed conflict," the paper said.

Elinor Vinson Bolasco, Habitat for Humanity project manager, said they saw how idle youths suddenly valued responsibility and appreciate opportunity.

"We have observed that most of the out-of-school youth in our areas were unproductive. We needed a pool of workers and we thought of making the youth our partners in delivering services to the entire community we want to develop," Bolasco said.

The partnership can become a model for the synergy of efforts of civil society organizations and nongovernment organizations, backed by the government through the action his Comfort Transformation for Peace Programme (Act for Peace), which is now in the period of intensive partnership building and social preparation in the community level.

"No better than today to start providing assistance to out-of-school youth in the peace and development communities in a manner consistent with the programme's principle of convergence for integrated programs and services that complement resources of partner-institutions to achieve greater impact at the community level," explained Jesus Dureza, national program director of Act for Peace.

"The partnership can now re-evaluate all the existing arrangements with the partners and greatly enhance the desired impact on the community level," he added.

More than providing the community with the services, the partnership also aims to see the trainees engrafting themselves into an association or cooperative so it is important for them.

Through cooperatives, they are to receive better livelihood opportunities and more sustainable economic activities.

The trainees, like Alagan and Bagayan, are also expected to become active service providers for Habitat for Humanity projects. Payment to Maguni are now in Manila working for a project of Habitat.

Other out-of-school youths from Midsayap, who have undergone the same training, are also working to rebuild the calamity-stricken Guimangan village of Dr. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

During the interview, both Bagayan and Maguni admitted being upbeat about the latest development as they can already help their respective families.

"Mayong ito ang mag-sakalo na mula sa training ay magkaroon man ng kasiyahan at magkakaroon pa ng kabuhay... awa sa mga (What I would have thought that we acquire these skills and jobs)," Bagayan said.

While the trainees were slowly leaving the site, the newly moved-in family of Tabuta Tasak, 43, was enjoying the serenity of their new house, her two very young children chasing each other around a pile of hay, oblivious of the darkness closing in.

Tasak's family originally came from Barangay Gangahan, a wet-rice village.

The new dove houses are owned by Tasak's sisters. Evidently, the family loved their new place despite the fact that the house was not for free and that paying for it has never been an issue for them.

Tasak said the has already paid P4,000 for the house that costs P5,400.

"Mas gusto na namin dito kasi sakwak... walang gato at walang mangagalit. Mayong aaaling problema. Pero like it better here because it's peaceful... there's peace and quiet. It's as if there are no problems)," said Norsida Tasak's 19-year-old daughter.

What did Eggie tell Letty that made her laugh?

TIME MAGAZINE recently honored Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc (left), Inquirer's editor-in-chief, and Eugenia "Eggie" Apostol (right), founding chairperson, as two of Asia's heroes over the last 60 years. The magazine cited Apostol and Magsanoc for standing up against a dictatorship and launching the Inquirer with its unflinching brand of journalism.

Answer the question above and get a chance to win P400,000 in cash and appliances.

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Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER

GRACE reproductive and jobless children of MNLF fighters are now fighting another war—that against homelessness. Habitat for Humanity is wooing youths into contributing to making a better life for villagers in war-torn areas and, in the process, improving their lives, too, through new skills in carpentry and masonry.

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November 14 - 17, 2006 • Philippine International Convention Center & The Hotel Philippine Plaza

POGS

"POGS at 60: Fulfilling its Vision of Excellence and Relevance"

MESSAGES

MALACAÑANG PALACE
MANILA

Greetings to the men and women of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. as you mark your diamond foundation and 60th Anniversary celebration.

This theme, "Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society at 60: Fulfilling its Vision of Excellence and Relevance," is appropriate as it underscores the need to be ever dynamic and responsive to the changing times and to continuously strive for excellence and high standards in our specialization.

Our administration relentlessly implements innovations and programs to improve the delivery of public health services to our people. We are committed to bring the benefits of our economic reforms to the grassroots through sound and effective delivery of basic social services. I call upon you to join us in this cause.

I extend my commendation to each and to the entire membership of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. on your 60th anniversary celebration. May you continue to be a source of inspiration and a model institution for our people and our country.

Happy Anniversary and Maligayang bagong taon!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) Foundation, Inc. on the holding of their 60th anniversary celebration and 2006 Annual Convention with the theme, "POGS at 60: Fulfilling its Vision of Excellence and Relevance."

May the body of knowledge gathered in this convention be enriched by the experiences of men and women of obstetrics and gynecology in order to alleviate the many concerns of women in the country.

I commend your Society for your continuing mission of providing quality obstetrical and gynecological health services and promoting quality public health programs that are essential in maintaining the health and welfare of our women.

The Department of Health extends its support and wishes you all success in your undertakings.

Congratulations and maligayang bagong taon!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

I am pleased to congratulate the Organizing Committee of the 2006 Annual Convention and 60th Anniversary of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

POGS at 60: Fulfilling its Vision of Excellence and Relevance" is indeed a milestone in the history of your organization. It is a time to look back and reflect on the past years and the goals you have set and accomplished, and also for taking up new responsibilities and challenges as you move forward and continue to serve our country.

On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Governors, I extend warmest wishes to you.

JOSE ALEJANDRO, MD
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

Greetings!

Once again, as we serve each another, celebrate a our existence as a society, our 60th candles and annual convention.

True to our core, academic and social relevance, the Organizing Committee has designed programs, both refreshing and interesting, to enhance and reinforce growth and camaraderie and also for family ties all across the country in uniting together for the same cause, with a meaningful way of the strengthening our partnership in the POGS.

We want to thank our colleagues for their fantastic attendance, unconditional sharing with special emphasis on the Training Committee and the Planning Committee.

Convention activities will be held on November 14-17, 2006, at the Philippine Plaza.

We look forward to having you with us or make the celebration truly meaningful.

Let me congratulate the Organizing Committee, chaired by our Vice President, Angelito Cabarrubias, MD, for taking the challenge despite the difficulties encountered to reflect them. To all the men and women in the Executive Board, PAGOG, operating and special committees, and support staff, who have worked hard, with dedication, and volunteerism, our sincere appreciation and wishes that everyone can have a memorable convention.

May this time bear a rich harvest.

Sincerely,

NOEMI PEGA-MANGALINO, MD
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

It gives me great pleasure and honor to invite you to the 60th Celebration of the Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. This will be held on November 14-17, 2006 at the Philippine International Convention Center and the Hotel Philippine Plaza in Roxas Blvd. 14-17, 2006, with its theme, "POGS at 60: Fulfilling its Vision of Excellence and Relevance."

The 2006 Annual Convention offers a unique opportunity for all of us to learn, share and exchange ideas and experiences in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as in the field of Maternal, Perinatology and child health concerns. The scientific program has chosen important and challenging topics in Obstetrics, Gynecology and child health concerns. Invited speakers, both foreign and local, will present the latest developments and issues in their respective fields.

The Training Committee has planned for a November 13 pre-Convention workshop. Resource Speakers from the Philippines and abroad will share their knowledge and skills in the areas of Basic and Advanced Laparoscopy, Hysteroscopy, Ultrasound and Colposcopy.

The Board of Trustees of POGS as well as the Organizing Committee of this Convention would like to extend a welcoming arm to a diverse, scientific program for with state of the art presentations on Endoscopy in Obstetrics & Gynecology. The Convention will also provide social activities, which is the perfect opportunity for all of us to meet with colleagues in atmosphere set for friendship, camaraderie and a new look.

Dear respected colleagues, I am very sure that all delegates who will participate in the activity will go home feeling a sense of satisfaction, fulfillment, and renewed enthusiasm in continuing our commitment to maintain unbiased, affordable and safe medical care practice of Reproductive Health care.

I extend a very warm welcome to all our speakers, moderators, delegates and guests. May this be a memorable and important event for each of us.

MANUEL LIM
MD & Annual Convention Organizing Committee

Board of Trustees

Regional Directors

Awardees

Organizing Committee

Committee Chairs

Convention Highlights

DAY 1 : TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2006

07:00 AM - 08:00 PM	Registration
08:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
	Welcome Remarks
	Message from Guests
	Introduction of Officers
	Welcome Remarks
	Inauguration of Exhibits
09:00 AM	Plenary Session 1
	Topic: Update on Endometriosis
10:30 AM	Coffee Break
11:00 AM	Plenary Session 2
	Topic: Update on Ovarian Cancer
12:30 PM	Lunch Break
01:30 PM	Plenary Session 3
	Topic: Update on Cervical Cancer
03:00 PM	Coffee Break
03:30 PM	Plenary Session 4
	Topic: Update on Vaginal Cancer
05:00 PM	Adjournment

DAY 2 : WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 15, 2006

07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Registration
08:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary Session 5
	Topic: Update on Uterine Cancer
	Opening of Exhibits
	Plenary Session 6
	Topic: Update on Breast Cancer
11:00 AM	Coffee Break
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Plenary Session 7
	Topic: Update on Ovarian Cancer
12:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Lunch Break
02:00 PM - 04:30 PM	Plenary Session 8
	Topic: Update on Cervical Cancer
04:30 PM	Adjournment
06:00 PM	Gala Night

DAY 3 : THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 16, 2006

07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Registration
08:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Session 9
	Topic: Update on Vaginal Cancer
10:00 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Plenary Session 10
	Topic: Update on Breast Cancer
11:30 AM - 01:00 PM	Lunch Break
01:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Plenary Session 11
	Topic: Update on Uterine Cancer
03:00 PM	Coffee Break
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Plenary Session 12
	Topic: Update on Cervical Cancer
04:30 PM	Adjournment

DAY 4 : FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 17, 2006

07:00 AM - 12:00 NN	Registration
08:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Session 13
	Topic: Update on Vaginal Cancer
10:00 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Plenary Session 14
	Topic: Update on Breast Cancer
11:30 AM - 01:00 PM	Lunch Break
01:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Plenary Session 15
	Topic: Update on Uterine Cancer
03:00 PM	Coffee Break
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Plenary Session 16
	Topic: Update on Cervical Cancer
04:30 PM	Adjournment

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005

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Across the NATION

Sierra Madre blocks 'Queenie' punch

By Norman Bordadora

THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAIN RANGE ONCE again played a role in preventing a supertyphoon from hearing down full force on Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera region, weakening "Queenie" to typhoon level some two hours after it made landfall yesterday morning.

Nathaniel Cruz, weather branch chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, told the Inquirer that the mountain range spanning Isabela, Aurora and Cagayan is nature's fortress, also named the typhoon to veer southward instead of going on the initially forecast northward track.

"The weather disturbance made landfall (on the eastern side of Luzon) at 5:30 a.m. By 6:30 a.m., it was already in Quirino (another province the Sierra Madre) go through it," Cruz said.

"By 7 a.m., we noticed that it was still on the side of the mountain range. We thought something was happening to the weather disturbance and it might change its path. So we came up with a second statement with the path through Central Luzon," he added.

Between 11 p.m. weather bulletins on Friday evening, declared that Queenie, by then a super typhoon packing winds of almost 200 kph, was to make landfall in Aurora province and move on a northwest path toward provinces in Cagayan Valley and the Cordillera mountainous region.

Signal No. 4 was even raised for those areas.

"The intensities of the Sierra Madre mountains and the northeast monsoon caused it to change its course," Cruz said.

He added that the formidable range also weakened the weather disturbance to a typhoon with winds of just 140 kph maximum based on the 8 a.m. 11 a.m. weather bulletin.

At early as 7 a.m., we informed the governors of Central Luzon about the position of the typhoon. We advised that has will be done to evacuate before the typhoon arrives in the region," Cruz said.

It was however time at the country's central Luzon plained mostly to rest.

"Thank God to Sierra Madre mountain range that the weather disturbance weakened. And the media for helping disseminate the information quickly," Cruz said.

Cruz said that Queenie should have been over Zambales by 4 p.m. yesterday and out of Luzon and out to the South China Sea by 5 p.m.

The last time the Sierra Madres played a part in weakening the effects of a supertyphoon was when typhoon "Pepeng" entered the country just weeks ago with winds of an estimated 195 kph.

Cruz said the disturbance was weakened slightly by the Sierra Madre but was weakened considerably when it crashed into the Cordillera mountain range.

At 11 a.m. seven weather bulletin, Signal number 2 was raised for Isabela, Aurora, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, La Union, Pangasinan, Tarlac and Zambales.

Signal No. 2 was raised over northern Quezon, Polillo island, Dinon Sur, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Northern Cagayan, Pangasinan, Bulacan and Batanes.

Signal No. 1 was raised over the rest of Cagayan, Calayan group, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, Abra, rest of Quezon, Camarines Norte, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Metro Manila.

Guyito turns imagination of kids into paint work

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—GUYITO AS A superhero, an environmentalist, and an upbeat model of the best of the Filipino.

That was how three famous Bacolod artists—Cha-Ile Co, Tony Tejada and Rodney Martinez, who painted on about seven inch tall statues are fiberglass figures of the Philippine Eagle's favorite food—Guyito—depict it in Filipino.

They were joined by 100 Grade 5 pupils from six schools in Bacolod City at the University of St. La Salle (USLS) coliseum here, who also assumed their artistic roles after receiving their statues from the left fiberglass Guyitos.

The pupils, mostly 11 years old, from the USLS Integrated School, Bishop Bacalzo Elementary School (BBES), Apolinario Mabini Elementary School, Doña Consuelo Lacson Montelibano Elementary School (DCLMES), Estanislao Lopez Junior Elementary School (ELJES) and Mandalagan Elementary School were provided with the statuettes Guyitos and the paint by the artists.

Jesse "Orying" Sarion, Mayor Bagyuwen de la Salle director said the 100 painted Guyitos would go on display at the museum for two weeks.

After two weeks, the three Guyitos by the three artists will win a USLS while the 100 pupils who joined yesterday's activity will get their Guyitos back.

Guyitos said they were thankful to the Guyitos for giving the pupils the True superpower of removing themselves through art and of interesting and making friends with children their age from other schools.

It also taught the children to appreciate the endangered species and organisms how different about the Philippine bread of hawks, the eles.

Martinez said his Guyito that had hints, trees, fish and water pointed on his body showed how for the environment by the inclusion of the rainbow.

City Guyito came to his inspiration from vibrant colors. "I painted a The Incredibles mask on my Guyito as the children will see him in a fun figure who travels all over the country searching out to people through the Philippine Daily Inquirer," Co said.

His Guyito's back are Mandayan weavers and the famous handstand of the Bacolod Piaxo to symbolize Guyito's visit in Bacolod, he said.

To add flyo to his Guyito, Co also painted a face on his nose end, and told the pupils to see art as fun and to explore the use of colors.

Tejada's Guyito also had a happy look as it with a bright calming sun on its back with the words I am happy, honest, punctual, truthful, love God, loving person on it.

Tejada said he wanted the children to think about the many good in the Filipino has.

Then to be somehow, the children who had their own interpretations of their Guyitos.

John Gaspay, 12, of the USLS Integrated School, had a Guyito with a pink face and yellow body because he said it was a clown.

Then it became the rainbow, like a clown who brings joy to people—brings happiness to children as the fairies by helping them in their work, Gaspay said.

Kimberly Jagan, 11, of ABEJ I had vibrant and flags of the world painted on its back. She said it meant that he loves the world. Jagan said.

KIDDIES' Harrison with three consistent Guyitos he and two other Bacolod artists painted. Below are the three works of art. Grade 5 Bacolod pupil had his painting done version of the Guyito with fiberglass consistent Guyito as and paint provided by the INQUIRER. GINA P. GOMEZ/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Aurora worst hit as storm topples trees, brings floods

CAMP GLORIA, PAMPANGA— Two persons in Cagayan, Aurora, were hurt when strong winds brought about by Typhoon "Queenie" toppled a tree that pinned their houses on Saturday, provincial officials said.

Maulin Aguo and Melanie Tupas, both of Barangay San Idelfonso in Cagayan, suffered bruises and fractured bones when uprooted trees pinned their houses in separate homes that they had built in the Aurora Ecozone.

Castillo said the victims, who were rescued by medics in the town, could not be immediately taken to a hospital in the capital town of Baler because the Bridal region, Cagayan and Quirino (DCAGRI) organizers of the provincial coordinator Aurora were closed due to landslides.

Strong winds toppled power posts in Maria Aurora town on Saturday.

Castillo said he winds damaged 96 houses in Dipaculao, 19 in Maria Aurora and seven in Baler.

He said Bath Bonds were the most deep in Barangay Esperanza in Dilasag town. Some 1,000 families moved to high grounds since Sunday, he said.

Eight villages, including the town center of Casiguran, were also flooded. Power was out in the second week in the three southern Aurora towns since typhoon "Pepeng" hit.

Castillo said Queenie's name made it impossible to relate electricity.

On Saturday, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Central Luzon placed on standby several truckloads of relief goods in the region, according to DSWD regional director Margarita Lumpay.

In Nueva Ecija, Antonio Sangil, operations manager of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), said the water level at the Pantabangan Dam reservoir reached 209.7 meters on Saturday, just 1.3 meters from its spilling level.

Northern Luzon

In Nueva Vizcaya, Fel Lito Aguinaldo, action officer of the provincial disaster management council (PDRRC), said evacuation teams were closely watching villages in upland areas, which suffered the worst damage in the previous typhoons that hit Northern Luzon, for robust might be another occurrence of flash floods.

"It's not over. Now we have to anticipate flooding to rainwaters dumped by the typhoon flow down from the mountains," said Aguinaldo.

PRRM reports said at least five villages in Quirino were now isolated in the east in Benuhan village and Ilocos.

Small landslides have also been reported along the Maharlika highway in Barangay Bonifacio, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Reports from **Bonnie Orgio, Aurelee Bagay, Gerwin Reyes, Russell Asuelo** *and* **Grace Villa, Inquirer General Luzon, and Minnie Vinzon** *in Isabela,* **Kim Kareen, Fernando Cobbo, Gelbert Cardinoza, Yolanda Ordoñez-Fuertes, Ben Alunan, Divine and Frank Cimatu,** *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Guimaras villagers end evacuation, start coming home

By Hector P. Bergen Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—RESIDENTS OF Guimaras Island, who had been forced to leave their communities, have started returning to their homes, nearly three months after a massive Petron oil spill swamped most coastal villages of the island.

Around 100 families, or 500 persons, from evacuation centers in Buenavista, Jordan and Nueva Valencia on Wednesday and Thursday, after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared the level of hydrogen sulfide in the air, the same level in the 15 areas at 100 parts per million (ppm) value is below the acceptable limit of 47 ppm, as defined by the Clean Air Act.

Earlier, from the villagers of Tabalgonan and Tando, the same declared safe for the return of evacuees were Barangay Cabunga-an, Igdampilag, Sitio Lucsan and Tando in Buenavista Lapaz, and Sitio Tomi and Buenavista Cove in Barangay Jordan, Nueva Valencia and Barangay Alegria and the island village of Hamtay in Sibunag town.

The Task Force SOS earlier set two conditions to be satisfied before an area will be cleared for the return of evacuees. The areas should be cleared of oil-contaminated debris and have an acceptable level of hydrogen sulfide.

Gonzaga said the residents in the affected areas have started fishing again in the waters of Guimaras.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had declared fish from Guimaras waters safe for eating but advised residents

A DOLL in Igbiran up as evacuation center. Residents have started returning home, but the displacement caused by the Petron oil spill had altered their lives.

Late Sports

More stories on A25 to A28

Sunday SPORTS

Alcano: Last man standing for RP

From page A1

biggest first prize of $130,000.

"I am very happy because all of this has happened in my country," Alcano, 34, told reporters in Filipino after his semifinal win.

"It was a tough match because I saw our getting a lot of balls to drop in my breaks," added the lanky Alcano, who won only one elimination round match and entered the RD phase at the very bottom of the 64-man draw.

Alcano's victory came just a few hours after Rodolfo "Boy Santos" Luat, the veteran internationalist, took a 7-11 beating from Fu in the quarterfinals earlier in the day.

Luat unanimated a crucial error on the yellow 1 in the 10th rack while sending 7-8. He compliped a safety which left the table wide open, a far cry from the lone he displayed in knocking out the Spaniard David Alcalde, 11-10, in the Last 32.

Alcano, who is ranked at 86th-2000 (around 191 nations) for the Olympic Qualifier, also survived his Hinalog run after taking out Oliver "Bata" Reyes, the top Filipino and the country's main hope in the Last 32.

He downed the duo to clear last year's champion Fu Hsiang-chi (Taiwan), 7-13, in the Last 16. Friday then went a step further by toppling defending champion Wu Chia-ching also of Taipei in the quarterfinals, 11-6, early yesterday.

Returning to the table less than an hour after beating out Wu, Alcano struggled to keep his form after bagging the first three racks against Li. A curiously -if serious pummeled the match as both committed loony fouls, ruined numerous safety plays and overshot target balls by wide margins.

But it was Li who bungled the most crucial shot on the 9-ball in the 19th rack while trying to move within 9-10 of Alcano.

The Chinese did not only leave the final ball in the right corner pocket but also scratched as well. He then immediately shook Alcano's hand after the blunder to indicate his surrender.

Li earlier made it to the Last 8 by handling two countrymen Leung Chiuting, 11-7.

"I was still confident, despite losing that 3-0 lead and being led 11-4 and 5-1," Alcano, confident and with long nails, added. "I don't know, I just had much confidence going into the match."

"It's like in ask the round seven speci ed," Alcano said. "Because I'm the finalist," added Alcano.

Soriquez is in the third finals in his WPC career. He also lost in the finals in 2002 in Cardiff, Wales, nine of the five Filipinos victory chalked up by Reyes in 1999.

"I know the caveat will be against me, Ingrino," Soriquez, who bundled another Taiwanese, Li Cheng-chuan, 11-8, in the quarterfinals, said. "But that is part of the deal and I like the idea of being the underdog."

NOWHERE TO Alcano: A win away from glory and big money

WPC hosting a 3-year investment

THE PRIZE MONEY OF $600,000 (MORE/30 million) needed to host the Philippine World Pool Championship is just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, so far as expenses go.

The several costs of staging the Olympics of this sport will be more than three times that amount, and like to any business endeavor, the organizers are willing to take a step back the pie and hopefully move forward by leaps and bounds in the next year.

"We're lucky if we break even (this year)," Ten Maloderan, president of local organizer Klaya Sports, told the business yesterday tasty through the SPC being held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Maloderan said that a minimum of P60 million and a maximum of P80 million will be spent for the nine-day event, but he'll have the next two editions to recoup whatever his losses may be for this year.

"We're looking on regional advertising to make money (outside of the Philippines)," Maloderan said. "Plus, the (SP) government is beginning to come in for help."

While technology everywhere in the globe continues to improve, Klaya Sports is actually keeping its fingers crossed that cable television does not dominate the scene, for the next two years at least.

"Free TV ads are a lot more expensive (but cable TV ads," Maloderan, a former media and public relations practitioner, said. "Cable advertisements is a steady sum compared to what we get from free TV."

Klaya is holding the event with two international partners—Matchroom, which owns the WPC franchise, and FIPTS line, the official broadcaster in Asia.

Apart from income that can be derived from television, Klaya also got all rights to merchandise—shirts, caps, etc.—which it can market up to the end of 2018.

Mourneth E. Castillo

Taiwan pool second only to baseball

THE PHILIPPINES AND TAIWAN ARE THE two pool-playing countries in the world as the moment—as evidenced by the media coverage commanded in both countries.

Aside from being able to field the most number of players in the World Pool Championship, the Taiwanese easily have the second most number of journalists and reporters covering the event, understandably after the hosts.

There are at least 14 reporters and photographers representing eight Taiwanese newspapers and one media belonging to the Formosa Television Network, Taiwan's No. 1 sports TV channel.

"This (spot) is big, very close to baseball," James Wang, the Formosa section, told the Inquirer. "Even if the non-Taiwanese [wins the event, we will still interest it (in Taiwan) because the country is waiting [for news and results]."

Pearl has gotten so big in Taiwan because of such talents as Wu Chia-ching and two-time world champ Nai Yung-chang that expatriate shop working only after the last 9-ball has gone down for the day, and that's around 1:30 (in each of the last seven mornings.

* * *

You know that you've come to a big event in the Philippines when virtually everything seems out of reach—even a can of your favorite soda.

Case in point: "soft drink" goes for P35 a pop at the Philippine International Convention Center, and if you want to have "sailor," that 3-pesoish drink made from six carrots and garnishings, you'd have to shell out P120 for a serving with plain steamed rice.

Good thing that the caterer which owns exclusive rights to serve food at the venue has agreed to sell media meals to organizers for just P75 each.

* * *

To ensure a "level" playing field, technical officials check each of the tables being used in the tournament at the end of action every night.

A "leveler," that heavy looking contraption that carpenters use to flatten one's garage or kitchen floor, is the only tool being utilized by officials at the end of each long day in this $400,000 (around P20 million) tournament.

Level-table owner that balls drop by pockets only when they're supposed to. Mourneth E. Castillo

MARIA Sharapova reacts to a point during her WTA Tour Championships match against Svetlana Kuznetsova on Nov. 18. Sharapova won 6-1, 6-4. Story on A22 AFP

Air21 stops Red Bull

By Jane Nievares

LEGAZPI CITY—IT WAS ONE DEFLATION when Red Bull used to deal with through Lordy Tagada.

Air21 came up with a big offensive spurt and held its ground the rest of the way to down Red Bull, 81-74, last night in the Talk 'N Text 29th Philippine Cup at the Albay Astrodome here.

Mark Yee and Wayne Arboleda combined for several more sharp plays as the Express ran home to the chief period en route to their fourth victory after nine games.

Red Bull eventually went to Tagada as much the frequency of the enemy but Lordy is now with San Miguel three and the Bulls in their first debut in a tie with Barangay Ginebra (8-3) on second place.

Arboleda's drive sparked a deluge of baskets for the Express with Yeban knocking in six straight points and 300 seconds tapping the two with several for a 60-51 lead late in the third period.

The Bulls turned to Celino Cruz, whose back-to-back three pointers on the margin in 62-68, but Aris Dimamalaan, Gary David and Yancy De Ocampo broke Red Bull's momentum before the Express ran down the clock wisely.

Red Bulls coach Ian Golan never found a replacement for Tagada as Cyrus Baguio and Larry Fonacier struggled in the backcourt.

Jamby Tolentino had a few brilliant moments but time ran out on the Bulls, who fell to their third defeat in a tie with Barangay Ginebra (8-3) on second place.

It was an ugly game the Bulls and the Express played as turnovers and uncreative shooting hounded them throughout the first period.

The grassy floor and a slippery leather also contributed to several sloppy execution in the first half which the Express took at 37-36.

The Bulls also shot a dismal 28 percent in the opening quarter, nailed 14 of 25 attempts in the succeeding period for a 35 percent shooting clip in the entire first half.

The scores:

AIR 21 (81)—Yeban 11, Ilo Ocampo 9 11, Dimamalaan 7, David 10, Limahong 8, Arboleda 8, De Guzman 8, 1 Santos-Concio 3, Cortez 0

RED BULL 74—Villanueva 10, Cruz 10, Herrera 8, Baguio 7, Ilagan 6, Alvarez 6, Fonacier 5, Robinson 4, Villanueva 4, Ibañez 4, Bugia 2, Swanson 2

Quarters: 13-14, 37-36, 60-62, 81-74

ALASKA'S Sara dela Cruz blocks Sta. Lucia's Kelly Williams in their game Friday. ALVIN KASIBUNG

Fil-Am Tan gains finals

FILIPINO-AMERICAN QUALIFIER STACEY TAN pulled off a 6-3, 6-2 victory over fourth-seed Korean Han Sung-Hee yesterday to reach the finals of the $15,000 Asian/ITF Women's Circuit here in Missouri over mostly Cancer.

Tan and coach in California by Fil-Chinese parents, Tan capitalized on her solid baseline game to beat the world's No. 867 Han and forge a championship showdown with unseeded Nanaya Hphimsiharan of Thailand at 9:30 a.m. today.

"I played pretty well today," said Tan, 1972 in the world, **Issued Affirm That Supparuna Lewchenwakun**, 6-3, 6-2, in the other semifinal match.

"It's really nice to be in the finals again. I hope I can win this time," said the 23-year-old Tan, playing in her first tournament outside of the United States. She lost in the finals of a $10,000 event in Missouri two months ago.

"I just tried to be confident with my shots and stayed focus throughout the match," added the 5-foot-2 Tan, a high school sophomore at Lakewood High in Southern California.

Tan led 3-0 in the second before Hanwade it 2-3 with a break in the fifth game. Tan regained her form in the next seven three games to win the match in one hour, 22 minutes.

"I'm glad to be in the finals. I don't know what to expect. I'll just play and have fun," said Hphimsiharan, playing for the third time in Manila. She lost in the first round in 2004 and reached the second round last year.

The eighth-seeded Hphimsiharan got $1,360 in cash and an ITF points while the fourth-seed Han will share $685 and get no points each.

Dragons battle Giants; Pals face Gins

GAME I TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)

4:30 p.m.—Alaska vs. Purefoods

6:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Barangay Ginebra

THE SEMI-SHELTERING DRAGONS OF Alaska, no longer a team to be taken lightly, collide with the Purefoods Giants today in the Talk 'N Text 29th Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

After outscoring the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals Thursday, the Dragons go for another big win in the Giants at 4:30 p.m.

"Knowing that we've had a new team, there's little or no pressure at all," said Alaska coach Luigi Trillo, whose Dragons moved out of the cellar with a 3-8 record in the 2-6 following their 79-73 conquest of the Phone Pals in Tuburi, Lanao del Norte.

"But it doesn't mean that we're taking it easy. The intention is to go for the win when we're out there," he added.

Now on a five-game slide, the Phone Pals (4-11 are in danger of absorbing a fifth straight loss when they meet the Barangay Ginebra Kings in the main game at 6:30 p.m.

The Kings, who bounced back from an upset loss to the Gilas Pilipinas by upending the San Miguel Beermen, 82-67, on Friday, are alone in third place (6-5), a fall game behind the leading Sta. Lucia.

"We're well-rested and prepared but we know that going up against Purefoods is never easy," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

"In fact, you cannot take any team here in this tournament for granted."

Gregorio got his old rotation back where Dar Gissen resurfaced Richard Yee from the injury list. Yee, a reliable big, played for Alaska last conference.

Aurelio has been getting tremendous games from Jay-R Reyes, Rob Wainwright and Asvidar Singhay apart from key contributions from Ibrahim Baguios, Nino Gelig and Jerwin Gaco.

But Talk 'N Text was mainly to blame for its defeat against Wilfredo with its highly-paid stars suddenly fading in the endgame. Jane Nievares

YOUNGEST FINALIST: PCDominique Lapuz, 10, of Bonbo Pilot Central Schools in Nueva Ecija, receives the Ace Badge Award as youngest finalist in the 2016 World National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals. From left, Filipinas Rank 104 Ike Saremal, Allan Bobby Ganapi, Quezon City Rep. Marlo Defensor, Toni Rabelo and GM Eugene Torre.

So draws Ukrainian, boosts grandmaster norm campaign

YOUNG FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL Master Wesley So drew with Ukrainian Grandmaster Anton Korobov on the seventh round of the German International Open Chess Championship Friday in Bad Wiessee, Germany, to boost his bid for a GM crown.

The 13-year-old So, from Bacoor, Cavite, inched up to 6.0 points with eight others players, just a half-point behind solo lead, ex-GM M. Mikhalski of Chile.

So will face Greek GM Stelios Halkias in the eighth round. Earlier, Halkias won over Filipino IM Jayson Gonzales and drew with Asian Games bound IM Darwin Laylo.

In other Round 7 matches, Gonzales drew with Thailand's Banlaksi of Russia, Laylo beat Fide Master Ingo Candio of Germany, IM Oliver Dimakiling lost to Igor Lysyj of Germany and IM Oscar John Paul Gomez yielded to GM Jean Marc Degraeve of France.

Laylo climbed to 5.5 points and shared 11th in 2/95 place. Gonzales and Dimakiling have 5.0 each while Gomez collected 3 in the 10-round event which attracted 445 players. MM Marlon Bernardino

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"Pare, lamang tayo ng five points!"

Kwento ni Ryan Santos, 25 years old, nakatira sa Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Hindi naman labat kami nakakuha ng tickets sa big game. Kaya nimigurado naming nasa up to the minute updates yung mga kibitzkada naming nasa bahay lang. Mahilosong tawag lang, meron na silang commercials commentaries galing sa amin. Ha pa rin sa mga nagbubulsa saya at hindi lang sa TV pinapanood. Syempre ramdam na ramdam nila yung excitement namin sa both, kaya kahit papanu, parang nagsasama na rin sila ng live yung laban. Sobrang sulit pa dahil yung sandaling weapon namin, mas mura pa sa text. Sabay-sabay na lang kami bumabawi para i-celebrate yung championship.

"Good night Papa, love you!"

Salaysay ni Rene Labayen, 31 years old, taga Marikina.

Lagi akong overtime sa trabaho. Ganun talaga, kailangan pagsikapan ang educational plan ng bunso ko. Yun lang maiiwan ko sa kanya eh. Dahil dun, may tradition na kami. Pag alas-9 na ng gabi at nasa opisina pa ko, tatawag na siya sakin gamit ang cell phone ni Mom. Kahit sandali ko lang marinig ang boses ni bunso at ni Lita, nakakalimutan ko ang pagod ng buong araw na trabaho. Sa ilang segundo na yun, naaalala ko ang dahilan kung bakit ako nagsisikap ng ganito.

"Oo, mahal."

Kwento ni Karen Aquino, 24 years old, taga-Angeles, Pampanga.

Surprise talaga kung surprise. Anniversary namin ni Don, pero hindi kami nakapag-celebrate kasi nasa out of town company trip siya. So I just stayed at home waiting for his usual text telling me good night at mahalaga na siya. Imagine my surprise when I got a mysterious call from him, telling me to "Look outside my window". When I did, nagulat ako.

Nasa labas siya with rose petals and candles scattered all over, holding up a sign saying "Will you marry me?". Some might say na ang cheesy nun, pero ako, I found it sweet talaga. I knew right then and there na he was the guy for me. So I called him up on his cell and said the two words that he wanted to hear.

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6 seconds	P 0.60	P0.50	P 0.00	P 1.00	P 0.50
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Muslims and Christians break bread for peace

By DJ Yap

PEACE REIGNS AT THE UNMSH table for those who believe that food—good food—fills the belly and nourishes the heart.

Nowhere was the truth true than one October evening at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where Muslims and Christians gathered for a feast of traditional Moroccan and Tausug dishes.

Dubbed the "Inaugurative Food Festival," the interfaith dinner at Bahay Kalinaw celebrated the end of the month-long Ramadan. It was held Oct. 26, a week after Hari-ul-Fitr.

It was a fitting end to a Muslim holiday marked by fasting and prayer, an evening of kinship and revelry meant and laughter, and, above all, good food.

Sumptuous offerings

Laid out on the buffet table was an array of sumptuous offerings.

There were rich, hot chili beef soaked in grilled ground coconut, with a hint of ginger and lemon grass. Another mouthwatering delicacy was smoking, tender chicken stewed cubed and smothered in coconut milk.

Instead of plain white rice, diners helped themselves to steaming mounds of yellow kanin-g or "dinuguan" seasoned with turmeric and other spices.

Everyone relish and enjoyed like any other food were until, interested friends of buttered beef in peanut butter sauce.

Also on the menu were piyaparan, or chicken nuggets

THE INTERFAITH dinner featured traditional Moroccan and Tausug dishes.

coated with coconut flakes, and palitaw, fried lumpia of sweet flour.

And what Filipino meal would be without the "kakanin?" No dessert, the wooden garnish of pitu or sweet, sticky rice cakes.

Peace and tolerance

Although the affair highlighted the gustatory delights of Muslim Mindanao, its essence is presence a culture of peace and tolerance between the Islamic and Christian faiths.

The night's theme said it all: "People United in the Quest for Peace Promoting Greater Solidarity and Cooperation between Muslims and Christians in the Philippines."

The event was organized by the Union of Muslims for Morality and Truth (Unimat) and the Moro Christian People's Alliance (MCPA).

Unimat head convenor Nasser Marohomsalic found it significant to hold a feast ending the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims the world over fasted and abandoned the pleasures of food.

Moral renewal

"Fasting is a rite of moral renewal, strengthening man's good nature especially his solidarity with humanity and his appreciation of his position of stewardship with one another," Marohomsalic said.

The rite was devised in the Prophetic tradition that "one who sleeps in the night while neighbor writhes in hunger is not a Muslim and he doesn't belong to us," he

MUSLIMS and Christians celebrate the end of Ramadan with a feast: "A time to all Muslimkind."

Two killed, 21 hurt in grenade attack

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO PERSONS DIED while 21 others were injured when three men hurled a grenade at a group of people attending the wake of the father of one of the witnesses in the murder of a television commentator here.

Killed were Rubenes Rabanzog, 28 and Imelda de la Cruz, 52, both residents of Camarilles Village in Talisay, Cebu.

They were attending the wake of Charlie Galarez's father, Celso, at Barangay San Antonio, Talisay, when the incident occurred at around 11:20 p.m. Friday.

Five of those injured were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City while the rest were treated at the Don Jose Rosales Hospital in Talisay.

Chief Insp. Generoso Galvez, Cebu-an intelligence chief, said Charlie Galarez was supposed to go to his father's wake on Friday night.

"He was advised not to go for knowing a tip that he might be ambushed along the way," Galvez said.

Police said the three men had gone to the house where the wake was being held, threw the grenade and then casually walked away.

Galarez is one of the witnesses in the case of Ralph Bunoy, a camera man of television network RPN-9, who was robbed and shot dead in July.

He had earlier linked two police officers—Insp. Bryan Limbo, PO2 Achilles de Guzman—and a civilian, Emani Magnayon, to Bunoy's slay.

Charges were subsequently filed against three who were taken to the Cebu-ano City jail.

Magnayon, however, was shot dead by a jail guard under questionable circumstances inside the prison compound last month.

On Monday, Celestino, Galarez's father, was killed by armed men as he was driving his tricycle in Talisay.

62 traffic enforcers fired

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT yesterday dismissed 62 traffic enforcers who were found remiss in their duties.

The sacked traffic enforcers were assigned to the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau of City Hall.

"We don't need them, they were not doing their job properly," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

He added that he had to take action because of mounting complaints from motorists who said the errant traffic enforcers had extorted money from them for made-up traffic violations.

"Their primary duty is to help the traffic management but all they do is to apprehend motorists because they get a 20 percent commission for each fine they slap on motorists," Atienza said.

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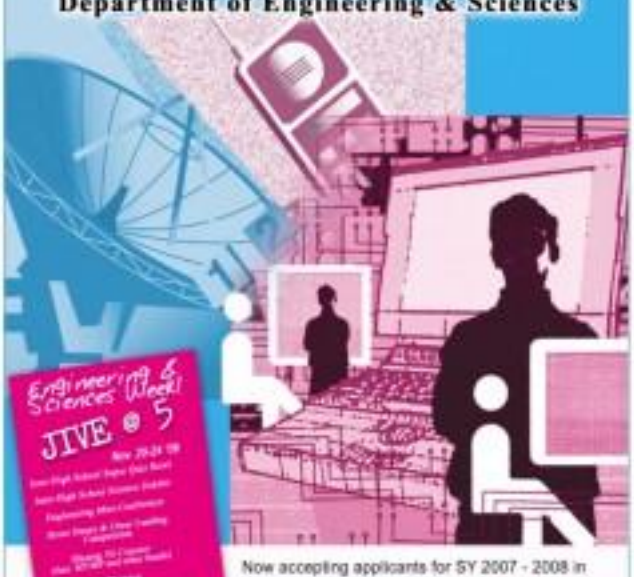

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Bells ring once more from Diliman carillon

By Frankie Llaguno
Contributor

BY 1945, AMERICAN SOLDIERS in their quonset huts on the rolling terrain of Diliman would wake up to a bugle and then stroll down to their bunks to the sound of taps.

These would later be replaced by the music of carillon players from a campanile tower.

Diliman, now part of Quezon City, was a United States Army camp at the end of World War II.

But the soldiers left and in 1948, the University of the Philippines moved to Diliman from its bombed-out campus on Padre Faura Street in Ermita, Manila.

Many members of the faculty, staff and even the parents of students resented the transfer but UP president Bienvenida M. Gonzales was determined to move out.

SILENT for the past 18 years, the "Bells of Diliman" are expected to play once more upon the completion of a P36-million restoration project being undertaken by the UP Alumni Association. (Jaime Laya Collection)

The new Diliman

Gonzales and his colleagues — Conservatory of Music director Ramon Tapales and university architect Juan F. Nakpil — had plans for a new Diliman which was still a village filled with soldiers' quonset huts.

The plans included carillon towers flowing from a campanile tower for the residential community of scholars.

The project got quick support from the UP Alumni Association architect and P200,000 was found for the purchase of a 44-bell carillon made to Holland and the construction of a 150-foot high tower to house it.

The Carillon Tower, Asin's first, was inaugurated in 1952 but Gonzales, other lines got delay in the issuance for a different package headed by newly-appointed UP president Vidal A. Tan.

First carillonist

Amsterdam also supervised the training of the first four carillon musicians, led by a young instructor at the UP Conservatory of Music, Flora Garcia-Rivera, who had just completed her sacred music studies abroad. She became the first UP carillonist.

Rivera was later replaced by Pedro Tabuenyong, Otto Gonzalez, Jerry Dadap, Antonio Bagalanta, Reynaldo Lazaro, Camilo Bonzalo and Ben Malgas. All were music undergraduates except for Malgas.

Tabuenyong later became a physician and migrated to the United States.

Gonzales, a piano major who was also a good bassist and singer, also moved to Hong Kong, attracted by the rewards of the British colony's vibrant, tourist-driven entertainment industry.

His friend, Jerry Dadap took over in the 1960s when Carlos P. Romulo was UP president.

Years from UP Beloved, Pauk Ge. 05 and the chimes, Dwinkins' Westside added me to play Filipino folk music such as Leleng, Sarung Banggui and Ay! Halimul," Dadap said. He also played pop music requested by the likes of Elvis Presley and the Beatles.

Dadap was the compleat working student. In addition to the money he earned playing carillon music for an hour every day, he worked as janitor in a music conservatory.

Talent fee hike

Romulo was so pleased with Dadap that he agreed to the latter's request to raise his talent fee by P20 to be wonderful into his favorite musician.

Dadap was followed by several other carillon players in the 1970s, including Antonio Bagalanta, a composer best known for adaptations of Bach to the physical demands of the carillon.

The carillon is played by pumping it with the fist or palm. Players usually put on leather rings to protect their fingers.

"I also played The Internationale," Dadap said, adapting to the fawning demands of a growing left wing community in the campus.

But time and rust took its toll on the bells, badly out of tune, it was played less often in the following years. In his December 1976 concert, Malgas played Handel's "Messiah." The trio followed the following year by Jacob music professor Bernard Weinstein who gave a pre-Christmas carillon concert. The bells rang again between 2002 and 2004 for UP's Diamond Jubilee and once in 1985, with Malgas once more in the controls.

Last performance

The carillon's last "show" was in 1998 for the Lantern Parade with music sophomore Danilo Bonzalo in charge. It was the time of the Diliman Commune and Bonzalo lived on the second floor of the Carillon Tower, the Philippine Collegian reported.

During the alumni homecoming in June 2005, the UP Alumni Association Board of Directors officially launched the UP Carillon Restoration as its flagship project for the university's centennial celebration in 2008.

The goal is to restore the campanile, its tower and its surroundings. It also includes maintaining scholarships in memory the availability of a steady pool of well-trained carillon musicians. The project costing P36 million is being funded by donations from alumni.

Officers of the UPAA are hopeful that after being silent for 18 years, carillon players will once again serenade the citizens of Diliman by December 2007 — if not sooner.

Cainta mayor not revoking gaming center permit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

CAINTA MAYOR MON ILAGAN YEITEMday said he would not allow the operation of scatter in his town.

He is not about to change his mind, however, about a gaming center set to open on Felix Avenue next year, despite the opposition of the Diocese of Antipolo.

Ilagan is standing by his decision to grant a permit to the project, which he said is not a casino but an "electronic gaming" center.

The decision is not contested, however.

"That is just a matter of terminology. There will be slot machines and it will still be operated as a casino," Antipolo Cathedral parish administrator Father Rigoberto de Guzman said when caught for comment.

Ilagan had said he would only allow electronic gaming with strict membership as provided by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which will operate the slot machines.

"If there will be a revision of that agreement, I will be the first to shut down the video gaming," he said in a phone interview.

Ilagan also assured religious leaders who had organized a big prayer rally on Thursday against the casino that his "would not mean a return if there would be cards, tables and dealers and high roller games."

But for Guzman, one of the councilmen for the prayer rally, said the diocese was maximizing its opposition.

He told the inquirer they were expecting objecting to the "choice of place" because the building where the game center would be located was next to the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and in front of a company school.

Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes had earlier said the area was a "family oriented area" and having residents into gambling would only break up families.

He is also planning to meet with Ilagan to personally state his objection to the project, De Guzman said.

Ilagan, meanwhile, appealed for understanding. "I hope our church leaders and our constituents will understand that we want progress and development in Cainta," he said, adding that revenues from the gaming center would fund education, health and infrastructure projects.

SCENE of the dedications during the Imam Tuan-Imam and running (below).

Muslims ...

From page A21

added.

"Thus, when religious festivals come like Eid-al-Fitr (Marawi) gone the day like it is a day of celebration," he said.

The past Eid-al-Fitr (fast, fast, not an apt way to end the Ramadan month, he said. Mastoussolo added it was a "new fare in the observance of the festival" and likely "a first in all Mindanao."

Wes Vargas, public information officer of MSU, said Muslims traditionally celebrated the end of Ramadan by slaughtering a goat and sharing the meat with the poor as a way to strengthen the bonds of the community.

Bringing people together

"In Vargas, this food festival is an instrument to bring people from all faiths together sharing a feast," he said.

Among the prominent Catholic church leaders who graced the occasion was Cebu archbishop Oscapiano Miguez, who found it "a unique experience."

"It's my first time to attend such an affair with our brothers and sisters from the Muslim religion ... It's a very meaningful celebration ... which we hope will reverberate in peace," he said.

Also in attendance was National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, who expressed his solidarity with "everyone who fights for peace and freedom."

Ghosy Cabellon of Ugbras Filipino Independents said the struggle of the Bangsamoro people in a predominantly Catholic society should not be seen as a war between Christians and Muslims.

"The fight of the Bangsamoro people and the Muslims is the fight of the Filipino people," he said.

Cabellon said it was one of life's ironies that those present at the dinner were "people who came here to eat while continuing the struggle."

"But in reality we're struggling as one son," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

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5. Bids must be delivered to the place and address stated below on or before 10:00 A.M. on 21 November 2016. Late Bids shall be rejected. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Bids that fail to do so shall not be accepted.

6. The opening for Lot 1 and Lot 2 Package A shall be held on December 21, 2016, 2:00 p.m. at the Transco Conference Hall, 2/F Transco Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

7. Transco reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s).

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Fired Pasay gov't employees vow to sue acting city mayor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY CITY HALL EMPLOYEES WHO HAD been fired from their posts have vowed to bury acting Mayor Allan Panaligan in an avalanche of complaints to be filed at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Last Friday, three of clerks filed separate administrative and criminal cases against Panaligan for grave abuse of authority and violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. Many more are expected to follow suit.

The complainants were Benjamin Reyes, executive assistant II assigned to the office of the mayor and head of Pasay's motor management department; Manuel San Agustin, executive assistant I and head of the Tricycle Public Franchise Regulatory Office; and Cristina Sotiangko, executive assistant III. They were terminated on Oct. 27.

The three said in their separate complaints that Panaligan had terminated their services without valid and just cause and this amounted to "grave abuse of authority because they can be charged administratively and ... punished with suspension and removal from office."

Concerned for comment, Panaligan said he and his legal counsel had reviewed civil service policies before terminating the workers' services.

"We would not have done it without consulting civil service regulations, but we welcome their moves. This is a free country after all. We have anticipated those things and I know there are more to come," he told the Inquirer.

INVITATION TO BID

Interested Bidders may obtain bidding documents starting November 11, 2016 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Property Management Office, 2/F, TIDCI Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on November 17, 2016 at 10:00 AM, Conference Room A, TIDCI, Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on November 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Conference Room A, TIDCI, Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gwen Lois
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Text us your feedback:

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling out land and sea, in the home, in construction sites and at the bosom of the world, and whenever work can be contracted to ensure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

In Milan, with love, songs and humor

By Volt Contreras

MILAN—IT TAKES more than a punch line to entertain the homesick Pinoy, according to celebrities who found themselves with the bittersweet task of performing for overseas Filipino workers. Seen from the stage, the OFW is more than just a screaming fan.

She could be a lonely "Didi" in Italy who mostly misses a daughter's embrace and hopes to raise that longing by hugging actress Jolina Magdangal. Or, he could be a construction worker in the Middle East who tapes catcher Mike Jr. Pasos backstage with a request for the singer-politician "to look after our children" in the Philippines while there is endurance to keep.

Boy Abunda, a veteran entertainer in his shows catering to OFWs since the 90s, has long observed how his audience "who would always get a warm reception from their audience 'ha ii' ng're relatives who have come for a visit."

WHO's really the real performers of these off Pics | Piero, Francis Magbalera, Jolina Magdangal, Nanette Inventor and Bituin Escalante get ready for the roadshow that raises homesick Filipinos in Italy into even thicker screaming fans.

Hanesick

"You can feel their homesick here during the show. You can easily tell that they're intensely not for leisure but for livelihood," said Manoja, referring to persons diverting the global current from Kuwait after 2006.

A private production now on its third year, Entertainers brings local show biz stars to Filipino communities abroad.

Entertainers is screening seven cities in Europe and the Middle East from Oct. 21 to Nov. 17, featuring Piero Magbalangal, comedian Eastern Guerrero, rapper Francis Magalona and singer Bituin Escalante.

Through the years, Abunda said, he and fellow stars have learned to cook up just the right mix of morale-fun and nostalgia to make migrant workers laugh—crucially, especially now that Christmas is approaching.

Laughing at ourselves

The show would always be two, not together, for example, by a host comedian who "would make fun of ourselves and those Filipino guides we could all relate to," from the shape of their noses to the size of their flashlights' beams.

In the 90s, Abunda recalled, the pairs was usually played by the late Bert "Tawa" Marcelo, who was then tapped to lead a government-sponsored tour called Handa Kayo.

In this year's first set of tour, the role went to seasoned funny lady Eugenio, whose opening rounds up routine goes, "You know you're a Pinoy if..."

Different jokes per city

"I usually have a different set of jokes per city" the portly comic added. For stand-over show in 2004, for example, she took on the persona of "Pia Hamdog," the globe-trotting OFW who auditioned for a role in a 'blue film' production of "Miss Saigon" and ending up being chosen to play "the helicopter."

When Eugenio took that character to Australia, "Pia Hamdog" found a job as a "mangkon for aging kangaroos."

"I also do some research on the local language and get to know the consistently used phrases so that even the (Filipinos) in foreign spouses in the audience can contribute cribute to the show," he-mentor told the Inquirer.

But in Rome's turnout, she cannot poke fun at the non-Filipinos in the audience and those "alien" cultures, because always gets away with it by telling the jokes in Filipino.

Crowd favorite

Piero, a Kuwait-born-and-bred-worthy, claims to have found a simpler formula for holding Filipinos wherever they are: "We will always find something funny about ours."

The singer-turned-politician laments for his raunchy years of humor noted that whenever he performs, "I tend to become the Filipino country representative on stage."

But drawing out comedy to those of OFWs may sometimes come with sometimes dos and don'ts depending on the venue, especially since both performers and their audiences are on a foreign land.

Taboo subjects

Jokes about sensitive politics and Islamic practices are strictly a no-no when performing in the Middle East, Manoja said. But Eugenio thought the gist around that taboo is being a clown in Qatar where the ABC Ho-showed, "You know, Dead Alive play entering the country. If love a ban on pork."

Skimpy outfits and sensual dances that are more than skin-deep Western countries can cause the constriction of the show, if not execution, in Muslim, Abunda said. He recalled that in a 2005 Kuwaiti-ban concert held in one Arabic city, sexy singer Gretchen Cruz was in the middle of a Beyonce Knowles number when members of the local religious police approached Manoja backstage.

"They told Didi are have to stop the show if Gretchen continues to go down from the stage to dance with the men in the audience," he said.

Pause for prayers

In another Middle East country last year, the show had to be abruptly suspended for 10 to 20 minutes to make way for Muslim afternoon prayers.

But sometimes, however restricted, the show is welcome respite so-cool to ease the sensitivities of the OFWs themselves.

"I don't make fun of the 'Didi's' ('maid-wing tags)' or illegal aliens. If there are many domestic helpers in the audience, I don't involve the feelings of workers who may have been perjoking at work. That would already be adding salt on their wounds," she explained.

Her superstar also tries to limit the political entries based on current events to the Philippines.

Comic relief

And yes, some OFWs were seen glees to laughter that others—even mumbling inspirations between or said the could seem the show's end—are pretending to certain circle where a great number of Filipinos migrants have joined the ranks of professionals and already lead comfortable lives. Amsterdam and London really come to her mind.

And there are others, she said, where life remains a struggle for OFWs and where a showman's job is still primarily to relieve "their heavy burden."

SHOW director Boy Manoja on camera: "You can find their homesickness during the show. They are in Italy not for for pleasure, but for livelihood."

Priest watches over Pinays fleeing from Korean lovers

By Christer V. Esguerra

SEOUL—THE HUSBAND (name, reportedly suffering from a serious psychiatric disorder, had only one thing in mind one afternoon in February: kill Filipina priest Fr. Glenn Jimon, SMD (Missionary Society of the Philippines).

Trailing four hours by subway from an obscure town outside Seoul, the man, Korean overlay, Filipina wife's decision to leave him for good, was wielding a samurai carefully wrapped in cloth. He had been personally crafting the weapon for two months.

The message was clear to every in-to unsuspecting Fr. Glenn ecclesiastical at the Wallaeum Center in Hyehwadong district. I'm going to kill you," he said in Korean.

And so, the priest was unable to seek to his office on the second floor, the man went to get the homemade sword he had concealed.

Fortunately for Fr. Glenn, Filipino security worker Bong Bravo was able to intercept the attack. The would-be allowed the priest to sense the intercept and capture Park.

It was he—one OFW's presence of mind, the 43-year-old missionary priest might have been killed, all because of an apparently unfounded to be released. He spoke to South Korea.

Defying logic, the Korean was blaming him for the desperate act of his wife who had sought refuge at the Philippine Center.

Beacon of hope

For eight years now, Fr. Glenn, chaplain of the Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community, has been the beacon of hope for battered Filipino women running away from their abusive Korean husbands.

He has also been deeply involved in the fight against the widespread prostitution of Filipino women in nightclubs near American military bases here.

But most did his advocacy got him into trouble with both parties in the heroine underworld. Or, with some deranged Korean husband like the one who wanted to kill him early this year.

"It has become a familiar sight for Korean husbands threatening to burn up his presiding shelter to their fleeing Filipino wives," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

In 1998, the year he was assigned to the Philippine Center, Fr. Glenn saw the battered faces of his counterpart's Korean women.

The story, too, seemed like dead after his Filipino wife left him and sought help at the center.

The attempts on Fr. Glenn's life were serious indications of the mounting problem of Filipino migrant women in Korea, many of them suffering Filipino women.

These marriages, he said, are often arranged by Korean by agency which Don Filipino counterpart who usually earn commissions between $7,000 and $8,000.

Battered 'runaway mothers'

Brokers scour for young Filipino women, usually not more than 25 years old, and match them with lonely Koreans men in their 30s or 40s, he said.

Civil weddings are usually done in the Philippines within four days after an agreement is reached, he said.

"They hold the weddings in the Philippines so as to avoid the visa for the Filipino wife to go to Korea," he explained.

He said a marriage with a moneyed Korean guy initially appears to be a curse. Filipino women marrying another and a better life for her family at home.

But it usually doesn't take long before they realize the folly of their decision.

Within months after marriage, many of them would run to the Philippine Center in desperate attempt to escape their dysfunctional households.

It is also sad to Fr. Glenn to see the domestic disputes.

"It is just a common misunderstanding, on their advice them to communicate at husbands and wives and try to work it out," he said. "But it's a different story with battered women."

Here, the priest might appear to be taking disbelievers to the Catholic teaching on the lifetime preservation of marital vows.

But when these pro-arranged relationships involve their "foreign" between parties from the very beginning, Fr. Glenn said counseling to divorce can mean separately an, marriage annulment or a stagnation of relations.

The approach to the problem would be to cause broad-minded and forward looking.

Father Glenn says Fr. Glenn set-up an institution that takes care of babies of "runaway mothers." The program was later absorbed by the Archdiocese of Seoul.

So far, Fr. Glenn said, he has handled more than 100 cases of battered Filipino wives resulting from the business of Filipino-Korean intermarriage.

"These marriages really have to stop—they are a form of human trafficking," he said.

Entertainers' visa

The trade involves priest's rise-the form of club owners hiring Filipino entertainers as prostitutes, primarily by securing the sick American military clientele.

In many cases, he said, Filipino overseas are duped into accepting job offers at a dance Korean hotel, only to find out that they are, in fact, on their way to become prostitutes.

"Of course, there are also cases where they know about the real job that awaits them and they accept it," he added.

Fr. Glenn said the problem begins with the spurious rule of the E6 entertainers' visa, which is supposed to cover only legitimate entertainers so that some hotels or those involved in cultural shows.

Club owners get 60 visas to hotel women from the Philippines because procedures here," he laments.

Informed of the modus operandi, the Philippine Embassy earlier ordered a crackdown. But the problem persists, according to the priest.

He says the E6 visa should now cover only entertainers coming in as groups, not individuals, to avoid any possibility of involvement in Human Book trade.

Conflict in RP, Korean laws

"Definitely on the side of the Philippines, the use of E6 visas to work in clubs here is illegal," he explains. "But it's legal on the part of the Korean government as there's no conflict."

Apparently, Fr. Glenn isn't one to be confused by legalese and bureaucratic impediments.

He previously stole nightclubs in his way of monitoring the plight of Filipino entertainers.

He also personally flies Filipino migrant club owners, by his his efforts have seen four prominent people to jail, among them, a former president of the association of Korean-night clubs.

Hot seats did a club-owner is trouble caught as out-of-court settlements, if only to avoid prosecution.

Still, fr. Glenn says his job is far from over.

Prostitution involving mostly Filipino entertainers persists in nightclubs in the tin-flung cities of Songhchon, Uijeongbu, Pyongtaek, Incheon and Songtan.

Overworked, underpaid

Obvious if this is the problem of OFWs under the Employment Permit System (EPS) administered by the Korean government about a year ago to attract foreign labor.

On paper, the EPS seems well for OFWs since it accords them the same rights as their Korean counterparts, including medical benefits and the right to demand just wage.

But violations abound in the actual workplace where foreign employers have long been used to paying little for overworked Pinoys.

One factory worker complained that he was usually made to work for 13 hours without overtime pay. "Hours, my boss would even spank me in the head when he's dissatisfied with my work," he told the Inquirer.

Fr. Glenn says the problem is largely rooted in the language barrier between Filipino workers and their Korean employers.

Even talk to the case of OFWs, many are unaware of their legal rights simply because of their unfamiliarity with a foreign language.

And while their overseers, as said, in turn, information on the EPS, outside Korean translations, many still don't bother to really understand them, the priest says.

Migrant workers should be properly educated as well as their Korean employers," he says.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence K. Quesada

US reviewing Iraq war strategy

WASHINGTON—SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS HAVE BEGUN A broad review of strategy in Iraq and other crisis areas in the Bush administration's campaign against terrorism, according to Pentagon officials.

In a closely held effort, Gen. Peter Pace, the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has assembled a team of some of his military brightest and most innovative officers and chartered them to take a fresh look at Iraq and Afghanistan, among other flashpoints.

Pentagon officials said that the team's charter was to outline a range of options that Pace might draw on in advising President Bush and Robert M. Gates, nominated by Bush to become defense secretary as the White House adjusts its strategy in Iraq.

Ideas that have been discussed include increasing the size of the Iraqi security forces, along with the American effort to train and equip them, and adjusting the size of the American force to Iraq.

Pentagon officials said that the military review, which formally began Sept. 23, is being coordinated with the rest of the government, but that the military team lead does not satisfy the charter of the Iraq Study Group, the commission that is also looking into options for Iraq. The creators of that commission, headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, the former chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had raised the possibility that fundamental decisions on how to proceed in Iraq might be determined largely outside of the Pentagon. The commission is being advised by former military officers, but none of its members have served as senior military commanders.

The team involved in the military review includes Gen. H. H. Holdsmeier, the Army officer whose 2003 operations in Tal Afar has been cited as a textbook case in how to wage counterinsurgency in Iraq.

All told, more than a dozen military officers are on the team, which is overseen by Gen. Michael Hagee of the Navy, who serves as a special assistant to Pace.

—New York Times News Service

GATES: Most honorable man of the most admired in world. AP, FILE

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US reaches agreement for Russia to join World Trade Organization

MOSCOW—OFFICIALS IN WASHington and Moscow reached an agreement in principle for Russia to join the World Trade Organization, crossing the final big hurdle in the stop-and-go cycle that has marked the process since Moscow began to application shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The deal is expected to be signed Nov. 18, when both President Bush and Russian President Vladimir V. Putin will be in Hanoi, Vietnam, for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting.

"We have agreement in principle and are finalizing the details," US trade representative Susan Schwab said in a statement. "It is a clear indication of Russia's efforts to position itself to and benefit from the rules-based global trading system."

Putin has repeatedly said that joining the 149-member WTO was a major foreign policy goal, though Russia's all-driven economy will see few direct gains from membership in the organization that sets the ground rules for globalization. But joining would give Russia a voice in world trade talks, with the potential to help set future trade policy.

"Russia today is the only major world economy outside the WTO—the only one," Putin said at a news conference early in his presidency in June, 2002. "Keeping outside this organization, outside this process is dangerous and stupid."

US officials say the two countries gradually resolved through nagging disputes on issues like agricultural inspections, chicken exports to Russia and intellectual property protection. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Blair: Terror threat may last a generation

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Friday that the threat from Islamic-spread attacks in countries would last "a generation," underscoring a highly unusual warning by the head of the MI5 domestic intelligence agency that it was keeping some 1,000 suspects in 200 terrorist cells under surveillance. The warning by Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller, head of MI5, at a speech Thursday was by far the most serious and number of terrorist cases and indicated the extent of the MI5 to control conspiracies were under investigation and that "tomorrow's threat may include the use of chemicals, bacteriological agents, radioactive materials and more nuclear technology." AFP

Mahathir out of intensive care

KUALA LUMPUR—Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has been moved out of intensive care as he continues to make a speedy recovery from a heart attack, his son said Saturday. "He was moved out of the intensive care unit and is now in a normal ward in his house," Mukhriz Mahathir disclosed. The 80-year-old Mahathir checked the country after he was taken to the National Heart Institute on Thursday after suffering a minor heart attack. The ex-premier previously suffered a heart attack in 1989 and had bypass surgery. AFP

UN delays decision on Kosovo's future

BELGRADE—The United Nations announced on Friday it would delay a decision on the future status of Serbia's breakaway Kosovo province, hours after Serbia said it would hold an early general election in January. The decision came before Thursday's meeting of the Contact Group of world powers guiding Balkan diplomacy, shortly after Serbian President Boris Tadic announced the Jan. 21 ballot in Belgrade. The Contact Group—the US, Britain, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia—had originally promised Kosovo's ethnic-Albanian majority a decision by year-end. Albanian Serbs and Kosovo had threatened to boycott the ballot. Diplomats say the major powers are sympathetic to Albanians' demand for independence but wants to avoid boosting support for the ultranationalist Radical Party, Serbia's strongest. AFP/AFP

Asian ministers vow cut in road deaths

BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA—Asian transport ministers vowed Saturday to drastically cut road deaths in the region, where the United Nations estimates approximately half of the world's traffic fatalities. The ministers from 49 Asia-Pacific nations adopted a declaration on improving road safety aimed at slashing the number of deaths by 500,000 over the next seven years. Last year 430,000 people died and at least ten million more injured on Asia-Pacific roads. AFP

MOTHER AND CHILD
Japan's Princess Aiko, in ceremonial attire, gets congratulations from her mother Crown Princess Masako after her first visit of passage as a member of the Japanese royal family Nov. 11. AFP/AFP

Mandela, Gates in most esteemed list, Bush at cellar

OTTAWA—CNN, REUTERS CHAIRMAN Ted Turner and software billionaire Bill Gates are the world's most esteemed leaders, while US President George W. Bush and his ally Tony Blair of Britain and South Korean leaders rank at the bottom, according to a global poll published Friday.

The survey by the Canadian magazine Maclean's asked 11,800 people in 20 countries to rate 19 leaders.

Others who ranked in the top tier included US-bred singer and poverty activist Bono, exiled Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama, former US president Bill Clinton and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

At the bottom of the "admiration index" were US President Bush in near-last spot, ahead of only Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Washington has dressed all three enemies or rivals.

"Politicians don't fare well than as shown in the rankings because they are in the business of trying to be all things to all people, whereas the more visionary ones champion one ruthless cause with far less compromise to get upon them," Craig Wardlaw of pollster Angus Reid Strategies said in a statement.

"Regardless, President Bush's power to destroy is enormous because he is ranked similarly to the very leaders that he has sought our international sentiment to oppose," he said.

The survey was conducted by Angus Reid Strategies on behalf of Maclean's magazine. It has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points. AFP

CBS: Al-Qaida eyes holiday attacks

WASHINGTON—INTELLIGENCE agencies have been warned that al-Qaida may be planning to attack air and rail travel in Europe during the busy holiday travel season, CBS News reported Friday.

Citing unnamed intelligence sources, the network said the new and the warnings came from interrogations of al-Qaida suspects, who recently left Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"One suspect said plans for targeting the Eurotunnel (between England) amongst seven still prepared. It is now a matter of taking action," CBS News quotes one Arab official as saying. "Al-Qaida's strategy appears to be raising the pressure in Europe," he a senior that has been passing intelligence agencies, al-Qaida has been withdrawing cash, trained Arab fighters from the mountains and battlefields of Afghanistan over the past six months while handing over its military activities in Afghanistan to the country's resurgent Taliban movement, the report said.

According to CBS News, the new information helps to shed fresh light on a key mystery at the heart of al-Qaida's decision to withdraw its Arab members, fighters and logistics experts from Afghanistan.

Britain has been on high alert after the July 7, 2005 bombings on London's public transport network that killed the four Islamist extremist suicide bombers and 52 commuters and injured more than 700. AFP

Jack Palance, screen 'bad guy'; 87

LOS ANGELES—US ACTOR JACK Palance, celebrated for his "bad guy" Hollywood roles, died Friday in California at 87, his spokesperson said.

Jack Palance passed away ... of natural causes at home in Montecito, California, surrounded by his family," Deb Gorman said in a statement.

Palance was born Walter Palahniuk on Feb. 18, 1919, in Lattimer Mines, Pennsylvania.

His survivors include his second wife, Elaine Rogers Palance and daughters Holly Palance and Brook Palance Wilding.

His career spanned Oscar to 1991 as host supporting roles in "City Slickers."

He topped lists and generally ranks worked in his favor when in 1947 he replaced Anthony Quinn, then Marlon Brando in the Broadway production of "A Streetcar Named Desire" directed by Elia Kazan.

Palance's other credits include "Shane," "Sudden Fear," "Man in the Attic" and "Arrowhead." Palance starred his career in classic humorous as a professional heavyweight boxer who fought under the name Jack Brazzo in the 1949's before serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

He suffered head burns during a training mission in a B-24 bomber, and was a Purple Heart for his wounds.

After the war, the son of a Pennsylvania coal miner took up acting, playing Brando's understudy for the Stanley Kowalski role in the Broadway production of "A Streetcar Named Desire." Starring a week with Brando in the theater's bathroom, Palance accidentally hit Brando in the nose, sending the star to the hospital.

That turned to stop it for the international actor. Palance got new reviews that helped him get a career with Zilch Century Fox, a film making company. AFP

JACK Palance appears in this undated publicity photo in costume of the 1953 western "Shane," directed by George Stevens. Palance died at his California home on Nov. 18 at age 87. AP/FILE

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Paquiao adds right hook to fight arsenal

By Francis Ochoa

HOLLYWOOD—THE BAGUIO CHECHNIAN STEPPED INTO A THAI RESTAURANT AND SAUNTERED for his turn to be served. His gaze swept across the tiny seven-table room and stopped at the cousins, where a guy in a blue jacket and sweating an LA Lakers cap was signing autographs.

The Caucasian, who claimed to be of Cuban descent, approached the edge of the crowd that loitered around the celebrity and asked the nearest patron: "Is that Pacquiao?"

When he was told that it was, indeed, the Filipino ring sensation Manny Pacquiao, the man, who later identified himself as Charles Vila, widened his eyes and whispered in hushed tones of reverence: "Oh, my God."

Not quite, but close enough.

The General Santos native has transformed himself into someone worshipped in religious proportions in his home country. Sadly, it is used to heroes but also in boxing, but sports around the world.

So much so that people like the 25-year-old Vila, who scrambled to find anything he could get Pacquiao to sign, get star-struck at chance encounters with the boxer.

"I've admired him since I watched him fight [Erik Morales the first time]," said Vila a regular in the Internet Fighting Championship where he campaigns as a middleweight. "He never backs down from a fight, always moves forward."

Vila bet on Pacquiao against Morales in their first match, and even though he lost, will put his money on the Filipino in their third fight.

Ironically, the trait Vila admires the most about Pacquiao is the one thing that the latter senses is correct as he prepares for his third match against Morales.

Ducked under a swing

In about an hour past noon Friday, Pacquiao stepped into the Wild Card gym here and began another three rounds with the pads with trainer Sidney Hernandez. In one sequence, Pacquiao ducked under a swing and stepped backward, catching his trainer by surprised.

"For the job, don't back off," Fernandez told Pacquiao.

"I have to back off sometimes," Pacquiao replied. "I can't keep moving forward because I'm just going to get hit."

The statistic also highlighted the 27-year-old's morphing into a more mature, cerebral fighter. While mesh-sparring with Fernandez, Pacquiao revealed bits and pieces of his game plan against Morales, vowing to use the fight hook more often and bobbing and weaving also to provide for opponent with a difficult moving target.

"I'm excited to see the right hook," Pacquiao later said after having lunch, swinging his right hand for emphasis.

Flurry of punches

Every once in a while, he would stop in the middle of a flurry of punches to ask his strategy or he sincerely guessed the things Morales would exactly likely do in the third installment of boxing's current favorite rivalry.

However, when a foreign journalist asked him what the game plan was against Morales, Pacquiao bowed his coy and said with an impish smile: "I need for that money. I need to win that money."

Pacquiao, who met with Arroyo at the airport late Friday, plunges into one more sparring session at the Wild Card gym Saturday and then leaves for Las Vegas, where the fight will be held on Nov. 19 (Nov. 18 in Manila), after boxing Mosa on Sunday morning.

"We have to go to church first," Pacquiao told assistants who were planning the road trip to Las Vegas. "No matter how successful you become, you can never neglect to say thanks [to God]."

Bosch is expected to oversee the final sparring sessions after leaving the training reins to Fernandez Friday.

Viloria using old punch in rematch

HOLLYWOOD—ORLIN VILORIA realizes that there was one thing missing in his bout the last time he fought.

This time, he swears he is putting the missing ingredient back.

"I'm going to put the punch back in Hawaiian Punch," said Viloria, referring to his boxing moniker that became more of a possibility after losing his World Boxing Council light flyweight title to Omar Nishiyama last August without getting up much of a fight, literally.

"I was too passive in the last fight," Viloria admitted. "This time, I want to be more aggressive."

I've been running really hard so that when the time comes, I won't give him any room to breathe," he added.

Viloria has taken extra steps in his bid to regain the belt, something which he believes can happen when he digs it and starts with Bonanza in the underneath of the

"Grand Finale," which features Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales going at it for the third time in their careers.

"I've been training hard for the fight and I've pulled out all the stops because I want to get my title back," said Viloria. Maria said he's going to be a more flexible fighter in the ring come fight night, one who will go in Bert Bonsen and thought him via the scorecards if the fight goes the distance.

"I'll try to get him as early as possible," said Viloria. "But if need be, I can box in. I'll do everything that I have to do to get the win."

Francis Ochoa

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12 n.m.—Ateneo vs. La Salle (jrs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs. La Salle (srs)
8 p.m.—PBA (Ginebra vs. Talk 'N Text)

WHAT WAS SURELY MISSED DOING the recent UAAP season gets to be highlighted today when Coach Ronnie Dizon Arenas and La Salle back home to the Ol Ol-Pining 5 Homegrown Cup Basketball Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The great rivalry of the Eagles and the Archers takes center stage at 4 p.m. with La Salle hoping to score a second straight win and secure its spotted comeback after its heartbreaker in the UAAP that was not shown to some great suspension.

La Salle will be coming off a 75-71 victory over 2005 MCAA champion Lemuel Ilon Jr. using a young lineup setting to make a statement.

Ateneo-trained Buder Maldito is the man to watch for the Archers. He filed five of six three-pointers, including a triple to overthrow to give his team a 71-66 cushion with just a minute left in the game.

He will be backstopped by veterans JV Tang and JV Cuda and Bryan Bataoel Ravellambelo who contributed 10 points for La Salle.

Mount Sinaguilo to contact to ban Bola, 59-56, in a game where both teams played entire five players.

The Eagles, who lost to the 2005 Tigers in this year's IAAP E. tals, will parade untested players Reid Arias, Martin Quitasol, Jose Lacson and Jay Reyes.

The juniors and women's teams of both schools will also collide preceding the main game, while the final and UP make their debut in the nightcap at 8:30 p.m. Marc Anthony Reyes

Hapee, Sista down favored PBL foes

By Jasmine N. Payo

COACH JOE MAU, HAD NOTHING MUCH TO COMPLAIN EVEN IF the Hapee PCU North Mantra blew a double-digit advantage in the PBL Silver Cup opener.

After all, the North Mantra proved they have side improvements after combined forces to open last conference champion Rackuse Center, 73-68, yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

The North Mantra, who last are Gabby Espinas in the pro league, forced 24 offensive rebounds to keep the Post Masters at bay in the closing minutes.

Larry Rodriguez, acquired from Mindanao in the dispersal draft, heated up quite early in the game with 19 points. Billy Lanong and Jason Castro also made noise in giving the North Mantra a 47-34 advantage after the Post Masters had threatened at 42-41.

"There are no others in this team and I thank the boys for their cooperation. They all help one to win," said new Hapee coach Jun Reed.

The Sista Super Sealers also stopped the star-studded Magnolia Shopinners with a 77-71 triumph in the second game.

Bolstered by the cues of NCAA champion Sen Bella Lozon, the Sealers still found no answer for Gina's Klassy Aardlaan in the final two minutes.

Aardlaan, the standout shooting guard from the University of the East, drilled in eight straight points to fill the Super Sealers in a 65-60 lead with 45.8 seconds left after trailing at 65-59.

Bowling Hall of Famer Paeng Nepomuceno was guest of honor during the opening ceremony.

The scores

First game
HAPEE-PCU 73—Rodriguez 19, Lanong 16, Santos 11, Espiritu 10, Soriano 8, Bulosan, Sugrado 2, Mendoza 2, Rosario 2, Sarol 2, Sanchez.

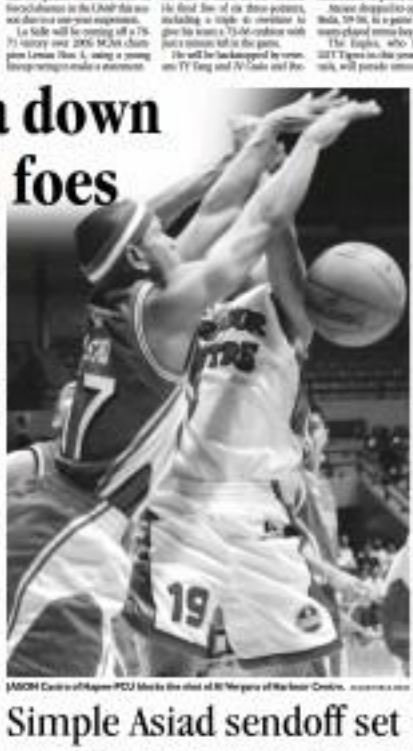
MANDAUE-CEBU SB 68—Castro 20, Diaz 10, Vergara 10, Ortigueza 8, Dadoo 6, Lucero 2, Gumaga 2, Aquino 2, Cavalero 2, Rivera 1, Fernandez 1, Mendoza 1

Quarters: 10-13, 28-32, 46-48, 73-68

Second game
SISTA 77—Aardlaan 25, Alba 14, Espiritu 12, Bonoan 8, Adlaan 7, Pinero 6, Ocampo 4, Ibañez 1, Mendoza 0, Orbien 0, Bautista 0

MAGNOLIA 71—Lucero 20, Agarao 19, Villanueva 7, Abad 6, Ygoña 5, Jose 5, Bonifacio 4, Bonifacio 3, Custodio 2, Ramos 2, Angeles 2, Gumaldera 1, Abella 1, Dadoo 0

Quarters: 20-13, 26-33, 58-58, 77-71



JASON Castro of Hapee-PCU blocks the shot of Al Vergara of Rackuse Centre.

SPORTSWATCH

Guidicelli, Stockinger in final battle

THE 2005 UAAP CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IS UP FOR GRABS TO AN EXCITING CLASH AS Stephen Guidicelli of Alexandra Racing and Rainer Stockinger of Blue gear up for the final showdown for the honor of the four-seated today at the Clemente Hotel Philippines in Cavite. Guidicelli and Stockinger are dispatching with the common formula: 52s and Dollar Mile Sessions Race. A title event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines. Guidicelli leads the Race to the Formula 52s class over Stockinger, 62-1/2. But Stockinger passes the Finish Mile Session, 120-118. Guidicelli is looking forward to regaining the top honors award since winning it in 2004. Stockinger, on the other hand, is eyeing his first hurdle of the championship.

(LEFT) MILO CHAMP: Nonie Champion Bibby Ilmoro (middle) receives beauty endorsement from Senate President Manny Villar recently. With them is Sen. Lito Lapid.

Bakbakan extended at SJC today

THE SECOND DRAWING 2006 NATIONAL QUALIFICATORY CAMPAIGN, Smart-Mo 2005 Bakbakan Billboard Bowling derby series will be extended today at San Juan Coliseum with 120 bowlers on tap. Action starts at 10 a.m. Competition format is a regular game with 10 frames and handicap. The tournament Director, Jose Mari Gonzales, said the 2006 edition of Bakbakan is the biggest ever in terms of registrants who crossed the 1,200 and prizes at stake. "We have no choice but to accommodate numerous participants including guest artistes from Japan, Singapore, United Kingdom, China and Malaysia," said Pabilonia. For info, call 725-5806/5807/726-1888.

Ilocos cockers bag LGBA title

ACTUALLY IT'S "LOCOS" WHICH IS FROM ILOCOS REGION, CONSOLIDATION PROVINCES. After 12 days of competition, Ilocos Sur Wildcats (Team 10 Wildcats) clinched the 2nd Governor Chavit Singson Foundation/Mondor of the Year Title recently. Together with Cavite, Pangasinan and Metro Cebu, it completes its Ilocos LGBA champions. They also emerged as champion in the final leg (Nov. 7 at Gumela Coliseum). Runner-up honors went to Bulacan (Malolos) and Metro Cebu (Mandaue). Pangasinan and Metro Cebu finished with 14.5 points each. Ilocos Sur (148.66) and Nilo Sarmiento (Ilocos Sur) finished with 14.5 points each. Ilocos Sur (148.66) and Nilo Sarmiento (Ilocos Sur) finished with 14.5 members. Norma Lim and Pablo Sia (Ilocos Sur) and Mayor Sergio Antonio (Ilocos Sur) (LGU). 10 and Mayor Ariel de Guzman (Ilocos Sur) (LGU). (L. G.)

BIG WINNER. Eugene Arriesgado (second from right) holds somebody's cup of tea. Michael Lacson (at his side) is the group's coffee pot in the two-man Manila Southwoods Invitational tournament-opener tournament at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. From right, MSGCC chair Atty Jose Luis Bulseco Jr., Diamond Motors SVP Rodgie Gloria, Mitsu-Asia Motors SVP and CFO Ryoichi Mitarai and Yoshiaki Ichimura, SVP of Mitsubishi.

Simple Asiad sendoff set

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IS planning a simple send-off for the national athletes competing in the Doha Asian Games set Dec. 1-15.

POC president Peping Cojuangco yesterday said the gathering tentatively scheduled on Nov. 16 at Malacañang will be a fitting send-off gesture before the 229 athletes start leaving for Qatar by batches starting on Nov. 20.

A send-off team for the national athletes was held last week at the Sheraton Hotel in Manila. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who was supposed to represent President Macapagal-Arroyo, failed to attend the occasion.

Cojuangco said there is also a plan to hold a motorcade around Metro Manila on last leave.

Registration up for races

REGISTRATION BEGINS TOMORROW FOR three fast races to hit Metro Manila starting next week.

On Nov. 20, the 2nd Southeast Global City Run will be held at Global City.

Organized by the Run Rambino Development Corp., the race offers cash prizes to the top finishers in the 10K, 5K and Kiddies 2K events. Finishers will get finishers T-shirts. Registration fee is P1,200.

On Dec. 4, the Milo Marikina Triskill 10 Miler takes place at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City.

More than 2,000 runners are expected to join the 10K race. Registration fee is P1,500 for the 10-mile race and P1,000 for the two-mile event.

Capping the 2006 marathon season on Dec. 31 is the national finals of the 36th Milo Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. For info, call 727-9987. For the Global City Run, athletes are being accepted at the Southeast Global City Gym, office on 23rd St. at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Ormoc hosts Supercross int'l championship

FORMER ASIAN SUPERCROSS champion Glenn Aguilar is the favorite, but the rest of the bidders are expected to put up a good fight as the Camel Supercross International Championship Series 2006 roars off today at the Ormoc Sports Center in Ormoc City.

Aguilar, who ruled the kickoff leg of the three-part Camel series which started in Talisay City last month, is favored to sweep his class anew in both the pro open and pro 15 categories.

Expected to challenge Aguilar are last year's Asian 250 Supercross champion Junior Robinson of New Zealand and countrymen Kenneth Ian Mathis, Jason Stirling and Robert de la Cruz.

Robinson skipped the Talisay leg of the Camel series due to a knee injury he sustained a few days before the competition, but declared himself fit and ready to challenge Aguilar right before his arriving time in the late-morning Eastern Visayas city.

Ian Andrino, who finished a close second to Aguilar in Talisay City, is tipped to make it a three-cornered fight this weekend.

Ormoc City Mayor Eric Codilla has been invited to grace the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Nemsa) and organized by Xtreme Wets Phils.

The race will also serve as the second leg of the three-part Camel Supercross International Championship Series.

The third and final leg will be held in Iloilo City Nov. 26.

For more info on the Camel race, call Arthur Nadela at 0917-6797951 or check out the web site at www.nemsa.org

RFM's Joey C is back in PBL

IN HUDDLE

Bert Cortez

SINCE HER parties crowned more than a decades ago in the Philippine Amateur Basketball League three (PBL), RFM's Joey Concepcion has been actively involved in a big way with basketball.

Until a couple of years at so when the Concepcions sold Pop Cola to SanMiguel Corp. left, stuck and bored.

The deal included the Concepcions' PBA franchise which was valued at P120 million), the highest franchise ever in the history of the PBA so far. Joseph Joey, who's hands in the PBL through games with North Stars, a new business venture.

Conquest of UAAP champion LET Growing Tigers, the Ninth Storm patrolled with the eight other PBL franchises during the opening ceremonies of the Silver Cup at the new-ish Aura gym called "The Arena."

Joey completely dashed from the basketball scene after his PBL team Sandalo franchise to following the sale of Pop Cola.

Last year he was in the lineup of the erstwhile M team that played in the MBA. In the '80s, and he liked the concept of having a college squad playing in the PBL.

Plus, plus the reasonable cost of maintaining a team in the amateur league are what lured him to resurrect his role in basketball.

* * *

Going back to the PBA, however, is another story.

The professional league no longer holds as much attraction to him as it did 16 years ago when it was at the peak of its popularity and the cost of a franchise was very affordable.

Joey suggested the MBL franchise back in 1988 for only P1.2 million, would now be forbes? Now the going price is P60m.

"There's just too much competition now," said the young business Tycoon, referring to the other forms of entertainment that have sprouted in the '90s, computer games, the Internet, reality shows, shopping malls.

* * *

"The market is changing. While the PBA used to attract the 8-35 market, it now caters in the 025. On mass. That's why they have to rethink their position, we have to do something to attract this segment," Joey said.

Joey believes the EASL is so popular because the teams have a basic connection with the fans.

"It's a connection between classmates and schoolmates who are linked by their alma mater. They stay linked even in their old age. But I think the PBA should stick to what they are right now, except that they have to create more drama in the games, in the rivalries, during the intermission numbers."

The NBA has survived the test of time, he said, because the league has the best players in the world.

* * *

Sir Hapee Toothpaste, three heads are better than one.

For a while there, I thought the PBL squad had three head coaches in Jamel Sarrell, Joel Ibañez and Jun Seal of Cebu, who were all very active on the floor on opening day of the PBL Silver Cup.

But later at the press room where victorious coach Jun Seal showed up, he explained that he is the designated head coach, while Ibañez is consultant and Sarrell, his assistant.

A veteran of more than two decades, Jun's coaching experience dates back to the days of the popular Cebuano team Manta's Lois in the early '80s.

RP battles Laos today

FIL-AMERICAN Henry Bronson in action against UHG-8.

MITIGUE TODAY
4:30 p.m. — RP vs Laos
1 p.m. — Rumoza Futsal Leads

By Cordoff Tupas
Inquirer Pinoyse

BACOLOD CITY – MENTION THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS during the Southeast Asian Games last year and the faces of Fil-British football standouts James Younghusband and Phil Greenwich light up.

"There were 20,000 fans supporting us. It was a great experience," the 19-year-old Greenwich, one of the seven foreign-based players in the Philippine team, said.

"It was crazy, very nice and very flattering," Younghusband told the Inquirer yesterday. "That's one of the reasons why we wanted to come back and play for the Philippines."

The 19 hopes to get the same reception from the football-loving people of this city at 4:30 p.m. today when they collide with Laos in the opener of the Asean Football Championship Qualifiers at the sprawling Futsal Hub and Stadium here.

Younghusband and Team Loser clash in the second game at 7 p.m.

Cambodia, the fifth team in the tournament, drew the opening day bye.

The Filipinos were boosted yesterday by the arrival of Phil Greenwich's older brother, Chris, who saw action for the country in the 2004 Tiger Cup in Malaysia, as well as Phil Younghusband, who played in Friday night.

"A player who has scored two international goals is a great complement to the squad," national coach Eric Cardiff, referring to Phil Younghusband, who has scored one from an ankle injury he sustained while playing for Chelsea in England.

The top two teams in this tournament will advance to the Asean Championships, formerly known as the Tiger Cup, that will be co-hosted by Singapore and Thailand in January next year.

Cardiff has also included veterans Ali Sotto-Go, Dan Padernal, Hinde Dumpit, Aridi Zawaki and Basilio Calaghong, the country's leading international scorer the past five years, in his final 18-man roster along with ASA Games captain Ale Sorrosora, Johanne Sablan Andrew Santiago and goalkeeper Michael Cauis and 60-round footballer.

The other foreign-based players in the squad are Aston del Rosario Pantonnaly reserve Matthew Hartmann and Henry Bronson.

But Cardiff said selection will no longer be a problem for his team, considered by Philippine Football Federation president Juan Miguel Romualdez as the best squad assembled in a decade.

The Philippines is now languishing at 193 out of 205 countries in the latest ranking released by the International Football Federation with Brunei, Laos and Cambodia rated several notches above the squad.

Romualdez also urged Negrenses to come to the stadium wearing blue, the color of the DF Eli 66.

Alabang FS nips DLS-Z for diadem

DUBBEE LINE TROPHEO CONNECTed four clean sweeps with stellar scoreless left yesterday to lift Alabang Football School past De La Salle-Zobel, 1-0, for the girls' 12-under title in the 11th Hinako Cup football festival.

Sarah Constantin was adjudged as the division's Most Valuable Player in the team which unleashed more than 3,700 players and a total of 220 teams to various divisions in 23 pitches inside posh Ayala Alabang.

Meanwhile, the competitive 14-under girls' division's knockout phase starts today, the champion to be rewarded with the right to play in the Gothia Cup-World Youth Cup in Sweden in July next year.

Ateneo de Manila University, Xavier School, Alabang Grenadiers, Dela Salle-Zobel, Mont Kiara, Jubail IC-Cebu, runners in Davao and British School Manila are the teams which made it to the next phase.

The Philippines is one of only two countries in the world to have ever participated in each and every Gothia Cup since its inception 20 years ago.

Power of Winning show premier telecast today

THE PREMIER TELECAST OF the newest badminton show, Power of Winning, will be at 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. today on ABC Channel 5.

It features the first anniversary special of Shinsei Philippines with Alfie Lim-Ang, Shinsei Phils. Chief Executive Officer, as special guest. Also to be shown are the highlights of the Shinsei Badminton Tour 2006 and the Battle of Champions at Market! Market! plus the exhibition match between siblings Ronald and Rocky Magsayo against John Leung and Colin Haughton of England.

Meanwhile, the Shinsei badminton academy has added Olympian Mirosa Lim and several former national team stalwarts into high-caliber coaching fare.

With the success of the Jubail launch of Cebu last summer, Cebu Governor Marcelo Fernando encouraged Shinsei Philippines to expand the coverage of the academy.

Joining Martin Antonio in the faculty aside from Lim are Rocky and Ronald Magsayo, Jojo Mateo, Pompee Uy and Raul Hontanosas.

Enrollment will start and Hontanosas The partner courts as by are the Shinsei Central Head Office, Greenhills, Loran Badminton Court, South Branch, Alabang Racquet Club and Southwoods.

Olympic trap and skeet shooting meet fires off Nov. 18 at PSC/PNSA range

A shooter takes aim.

ATTY. ORLY CRUZ, CHAIR OF THE PHILIPPINE National Shooting Association (PNSA) Shooting Target Aggregation announced yesterday the staging of the Olympic trap & skeet events on Nov. 18-19 at the PSC/PNSA Clay Target Shooting range in Meet Ishpeya City.

The event serves as tribute to the late PNSA secretary-general Jose Ramon Corral in honor of his contribution in developing shooting as a sport.

Veteran marksman Eric Ang of Luzon City will defend his national open championship title 14-6 recently excelled in the last leg of the aggregations by the Asian Games by averaging 119/125, equaling the SP record he and Jaime Ilevia holds.

Also seeing action are Usha Asian Games bound Archer Dionisio and Jaime Ilocio to meets Olympic stop; Gay Josefina Corral, Sarmenta Garza and Resurrecta Garcia in ladies Olympic stop; and Bruno Bonacio, Dodoo Hernan and Pete to Bermudez in men's shoot.

There will be 21 medals at stake and a compromise lunch buffet will be served on both days courtesy of sponsors. Registration is on and forms are available at the range or at the PNSA secretariat office. For details, contact Apaul at Marlo at 636-0635 or 636-8637.

The MTs will introduce classification and team events to encourage shoplovers of all skill levels to participate in the hope of discovering future Filipino champions in Olympic shooting.

Sunday SPORTS

"When you're up to your axles in mud, you really appreciate your oil."

Mobil 1

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Rockets down Knicks as Yao asserts might

YAO MING goes up for a shot as Knicks' Eddy Curry (34) defends.

HOUSTON—YAO MING COLLECTED 28 points, 17 rebounds and a career-high seven blocks on Friday, dominating the New York Knicks to lead Houston to a 103-94 victory.

Yao made 13 of 22 shots, scoring against every possible defense. In the first three quarters, he embarrassed big men Eddy Curry and Slobodan Cate, who had no answers and resorted to fouls to try to slow Yao down.

"That is the best Yao Ming I have ever seen [in] play," Curry said. "You cannot block his shot and the feeling is unbelievable. He was in an unbelievable rhythm and you have to take your hat off to him. Tonight, he was unstoppable." Yao surrounded double-teams, his presence in the paint opening the floor for teammates.

The Rockets made 11-of-20 3-pointers, with four different players making at least two.

"He's a force out there," said Rockets forward Shane Battier, who had four 3-pointers and 12 points. "For those that do not see this team very much, he is a guy that gets here early to work and he stays late. Nights like this don't happen by accident. It's because of his incredible work ethic."

In the third period, Knicks coach Isiah Thomas resorted to a small lineup that had rookie forward Renaldo Balkman as the primary defender on Yao, who also dominated on the defensive end.

"Yao now is everything they say he is," Thomas said. "He was exceptional tonight."

Yao's blocks matched a career high established twice previously and contributed to lowly 42-per-cent shooting by the Knicks.

His rebounds fell five shy of his career high and helped the Rockets to a 41-33 advantage on the glass.

"Yao was so effective that the Rockets were despite an ordinary game from superstar Tracy McGrady, who scored 13 points on 5-of-12 shooting.

Bobby Jackson added 13 points for the Rockets, who beat the Knicks for the fourth time. AFP

Box Scores

Knicks: 9-5 Lowe 0-2 Curry 7-20 Q.Richardson 0-2 Crawford 5-12 Hardaway 2-9 Balkman 0-0 Jeffries 2-3 Thomas 2-5 Cate 2-3 Taylor 1-2 Robinson 0-0 Totals 39-103 94.

Rockets: 3-5 Yao 13-22 Battier 4-7 Swift 0-0 Mobley 0-0 Jackson 5-13 Francis 2-5 Alston 2-2 Head 0-0 Wells 0-0 Rahim 0-0 Totals 39-103 103.

New Jersey 6-16 Frames 3-11 Ilyasova 0-0 Williams 0-0 Wallace 1-2 Harris 0-0 Totals 36-90 94. Fouled out: Williams. Rebounds: New Jersey 52 (Frames 10), Houston 41 (Yao 17). Assists: New Jersey 17 (Hardaway 6), Houston 24 (Jackson 13). Total fouls: New Jersey 23, Houston 19. A: 16,863.

IPAKITA ANG LAKAS NG PINOY,

LABAN MANNY!

MOTOLITE

MAS PANGMATAGALAN

Goosen storms ahead as winds beset Woods

SHANGHAI—SOUTH AFRICAN Retief Goosen took the third-round lead Saturday at the five-million-dollar HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai as heavy winds buffeted Tiger Woods and many others in the field.

Goosen, a two-time US Open champion, managed a three-under 69 to sit at 12-under going into the final day one shot clear of fourth-seeded Vong Hong Sun and one ahead of Dubai's Mads Vibenhuus.

Scotland's Marc Warren finished day three in outright fourth position at nine-under following a two-under 70.

World number one Woods, 61-lowed his course-record-setting 64 on Friday to partner countdown with a 73 to be in equal fifth position with England's Paul Casey and Italy's Francesco Molinari at seven-under.

Woods finished the day in a dismal second following bogeys on the final two holes. An errant drive on the par-five 18th that found water saw Tajiniyal his ecstatic dog to which he consistently struggled off the tee.

"As good as it was yesterday, it was as bad as it was today," Woods said of his performance.

"I struggled off the tee, I hit the ball well and didn't putt well. I was just trying to hang in there, trying not to let it get behind the leaders." Goosen, ranked sixth in the world, said he was delighted to have managed a three-under par considering the rainy weather conditions, with a howling wind removing a reasonable day for many in the field. AFP

WINNER Former world champion Brandon Hollyfield (foreground) delivers a body punch to Omar Quintero during the fifth of their 10-round heavyweight bout in San Antonio on Saturday. The 44-year-old Hollyfield won via unanimous decision.

Mauresmo, Sharapova barge into semifinals

MELBOURNE—AUSTRALIAN OPEN and Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo cautioned the value of losing her number one ranking by beating top spot rival Justine Henin-Hardenne so much the WTA Tour Championships event finals on Friday.

Mauresmo, the defending champion, scored a gripping 6-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 win which meant elimination from the pillow group for double former champion Henin-Hardenne.

Henin-Hardenne will now face US Open champion Kim Clijsters in Saturday's semi-finals while Mauresmo will take on Kim Clijsters.

Sharapova eased into the last four by beating Russian compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-4. Clijsters made sure of her place in the semi-finals by seeing off Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-4.

Returning from a shoulder injury, Mauresmo started off horribly as if the weight on her the pace following a straight-sets loss to Nicole Vaidisova last week she has ended up winning her group with going wins over Hingis and now Henin-Hardenne.

"I am very happy the way it has been yesterday and today. I kept believing in myself despite the bad start. I'm proud of the way I played," said the French-woman who will duke off the world top-spot after 34 weeks on Monday despite taking her career series with Henin-Hardenne to 9-5. It is her first win over the Belgian.

Henin-Hardenne or Sharapova will finish the year as world number one.

Sharapova, who took just 66 minutes to see off Kuznetsova in a rod group encounter, hoofed her championships run around ago. AFP

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Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Three years for dream of three to come true

RP goods worth P1M make historic trip to Indonesia

PORT of Elan, Sarangani Province

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE THREE-YEAR OLD DREAM of three small town mayors came true last month when the Al-Jumar cargo boat filled with P1 million worth of local products made the 30-hour trip for Manado, Indonesia.

The trip marked the beginning of formal trade relations between Indonesia and the three towns that make up the four-year-old Davao Gulf-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle.

Al-Jumar left last Oct. 11 carrying fresh tuna, dried tuna and mango puree, fighting rocks, soft drinks, paint, activated carbon and an entire line of cosmetics and whitening products sought by the Indonesian market.

It came back to the Philippines last October 20 loaded with cheap kitchenware that can be easily put back together here.

Eduardo Tap, chair of JAGS-CT and mayor of Glan, Sarangani province, calls the keystone that he is hopeful that JAGS-CT will be able to send goods to Indonesia at least twice a month to help the local entrepreneurs and boost the economy of the three municipalities in the southernmost part of Mindanao.

"This is the fulfillment of our dream for the past few years," Tap says. "It is finally starting to come true."

Common dream

Economic growth and prosperity was the common thread that brought the three mayors together to form JAGS-CT on Aug. 13, 2003.

Tap, former Sarangani, Davao del Sur mayor Aniel S. Antonio and Sarangani Kidapawan Jesus Sacdalan, Davao del Sur did not know each other personally before then and each went about his own way.

But all were looking for ways to improve the plight of their municipalities that were among the poorest in the country and relied heavily on fish from the bountiful Sarangani bay and the rice and corn lands.

It was Tap who first broached the idea of a partnership with the two municipalities, inspired by an article that he read in a magazine.

"We are all small, but if we get together, we can be big," explains Tap.

His fellow mayors quickly took him up on his invitation to meet and they came to an immediate agreement to help each other and JAGS-CT was born.

As a show of commitment, they raised their own funds to get JAGS-CT off the ground.

Glan, which is the biggest and the most prosperous of the three municipalities, contributed P100,000, followed by Jose Abad Santos with P100,000 and the smallest municipality of Sarangani pitched in P50,000.

JAGS-CT is the newest growth area under the auspices of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), and it adopts the similar goal of increasing trade, tourism and investments in the area.

Strengthening ties

The ties that bind BIMP-EAGA are being strengthened through the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

JAGS-CT looked to Indonesia as a trading partner, not just because of BIMP-EAGA but also because the three municipalities and Indonesia have been trading for centuries, albeit informally.

Tap says that with the formal trade ties, he expects smuggling through the porous borders in the south to be curtailed, which should increase tax collections for the government.

GLAN Mayor Enrique Yap with Jose Abad Santos Mayor Zenaida Kahn

AMELIA and Felicidad Perez managing convenience.

Balikbayans go into the 24/7 business

A GROWING NUMBER OF Overseas Filipinos have begun the laborious if rewarding task of returning to the Philippines, which they deem as the perfect place to retire, raise their children and even start their own business.

Among these "balikbayans" is a Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. retiree, who spent 13 years of his professional life in the Middle East.

Literally worlds apart despite their Filipino heritage, these two now have one new thing in common — they are both new 7-Eleven franchisees.

"After working in the United States for so long, my husband and I wanted to migrate back to the Philippines to settle down and raise our children with Filipino values," says Laurel Legaspi Gerasoo, who worked as an assistant vice president for Wells Fargo in San Diego, California.

Both Laurel and her husband Carlos, however, wanted to make sure that they would have a steady income in the country that would be able to provide them with a comfortable way of life. Thus, driven by this goal, they began to do research on different types of franchises and businesses that they can go into here in the country.

Going into business

"Finally, we both decided to look into a franchise business, since with a franchise, the business is already set up and you know you will get help in up-passed to setting up a business from scratch," says Gerasoo. "And we also wanted a franchise that is universally recognized, so immediately opted for 7-Eleven," she adds.

In the case of electrical engineer Felicidad Perez, the challenge of handling multibillion-dollar projects to his line of work drove his passion. So when he decided to settle back down to the country and enjoy the fruits of his labor, his passion blossomed into a full-blown entrepreneurial spirit.

"Working for a construction business in Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Dubai has taught me a lot about depending on a company's strength to execute success. I was confident that if my company can back me up, I can build anything," says Perez.

Consistent performance

The engineer-turned-businesswoman applied for a franchise in the country where she began to search for a business where he can contact his hard-earned money. He was drawn to the consistent performance of the world-recognized convenience store. 7-Eleven and its country licensee, the Philippine Seven Corporation.

And like all migrant Filipinos who have looked into the 7-Eleven franchise business as a worthwhile investment, Gerasoo and Perez also were initially surprised to discover that the convenience store chain was available for franchise.

"7-Eleven has 300 companyowned stores, and 113 franchise stores.

"Upon learning that the franchise stores had grown to 113 since Philippine Seven Corporation offered it as the public back in 1999, I immediately knew that this is a dynamic business that is both lucrative and has great potential for growth," says Perez.

SALIK BATAY co-proprietors Carlos and Laurel Gerasoo migrated back to the country to retire early

Putting in P1M

Gerasoo and Perez opted for a new franchise store instead, which costs around P1 million. Gerasoo's 7-Eleven store was set up at the ground floor of the Madrigal building along Ayala Avenue, while Perez' franchise was located near the ever-growing Ayala Land Technosite, Mapúa-ga.

Gerasoo and Perez also enjoyed the level of support that Philippine Seven Corporation gives to its franchisees, assigning an encouragement but provide constant support to the new franchisees as well as opening up communication lines for concerns and queries encountered in their daily operations.

Both new franchisees also appreciated the clearing system employed by Philippine Seven Corporation, where the company also shares in the cost of operations of each store, thereby sharing in the risks involved in running the business.

Gerasoo's cousin, Lyndon, another banker had already acquired his own franchise in Gen. Trias, Cavite. Perez is also considering getting another 7-Eleven franchise.

Despite the other balikbayans who have embraced their blossoming entrepreneurial spirit are Sonia Paredes, who operates 7-Eleven Aguinaldo, Russell Ira Abada runs two branches in Quezon City, Shandrine and Dante Mendiola own franchises in UP-Ayala and Libertad, Angel Briones runs 7-Eleven Burgundy, Ruby Ong acquired a license agreement franchise in Quezon 2, Melissa De owns the Jupiter and BGC stores, Melvin Cervania operates the Ortigas and UP Embassy stores, and Marilyn Ita Ita has run the PTU and Dr. Sebastian franchises.

"7-Eleven is available in franchise in the areas of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Manila, Makati and Quezon City. For inquiries, call 726-9968, 892-9506651.

Ways for Juan de la Cruz to make money

Ur van Ur business

By Rosvel W. Domingo

DANIEL RODRIGO HAS gone a long way from cleaning rooms and mopping floors of a commercial bank. That was P77,800 ago.

Nowadays, the former janitor is busy with his van-rent store and wholesale business, just up with micro-financing through the Center for Community Transformation Credit Cooperative or CCT.

"I have low bills and I believed there I could not put them through school with a janitor's salary," Tinay Daniel says.

"So, I wanted selling fruits with P900 in capital, which was not enough," he relates. "But patiently, I was able to join CCT and was allowed to borrow P2,000."

Tinay Daniel expanded his product line to charcoal and other articles that the urban poor like him needed.

"I took good care of that first loan, paying diligently because I know that's the way for me to stay in business," he says. "Later on, I was able to borrow P5,000."

Second loan

That second loan made it possible for him to put up a canteen (meriend) diligently explained he said the loan, hoping for bigger opportunities.

Tinay Daniel is trading to another financing package worth P70,000, an amount he says to pay as faithfully as he did the previous ones.

"Because of the loans and with the God's blessings, one of my kids has already earned a degree," he says. "Two more are still in college and my youngest is in high school."

Elizabeth Milagan, head of accounting at CCT, describes the group as a Christian-client-centered organization left-though the chartered loan they are not out to convert people into a congregation).

Organized in 1992, CCT "promotes holistic transformation through the provision of community-based, integrated and sustainable financial services that include micro-finance, education for children, spiritual development, servant leadership training and development, business and social services, and more outlined as businesses."

Loan packages

Belanga says CCT had released this year some P1.4 billion by means of about 200,000 loan packages ranging from P5,000 to P200,000.

Usually, borrowers are extended small loans that they must pay in weekly installments. The amount of a loan one is qualified to claim on depends on the of her track record of repayments.

"The average loan is worth 86,000 but we were able to serve borrowers who needed more than P500,000 through the help of Universal Money Corp.," she says.

UMC is actively helping CCT's micro-financing program through its "Ur Van Ur Business" entrepreneurship campaign that was launched in March 2006.

The company had pledged to donate P1,000 for every unit of Urvan light commercial vehicle sold.

This, however, is not the first time CCT and UMC worked together. The partnership was tied a few years ago when the automotive firm provided business loans to 50 CCT urban poor families.

Revolving fund

Repayments flowed back into CCT's revolving fund for further lending.

The partnership evolved into its current state as CCT was in the process of developing an entrepreneurship curriculum aimed at some 150,000 "community partners" or CCT entrepreneurs nationwide.

The training pro gram—composed of 20 modules focused on developing entrepreneurs and business management—was drawn up with the help of ABE-CBN Foundation. Those who complete the 20 modules shall receive a certificate from the University of Makati.

"UMC has been so generous with us that we decided to name their modules for those availing of the UVUR packages," Belanga says.

UMC senior vice president Elizabeth H. Lee finds the results of the partnership rewarding.

"Those who have started as (franchisees) are now themselves benefactors—employers in fact," Lee says.

She cites Tinay Daniel, who employs four people in his wholesale business.

"There is also the story of a mother who has a knack for cooking ... she has opened her own mini (noodle) factory and now needs an Urvan to deliver her goods.

"And then there is the thirtysomething man who is a wholesale trader in Baseco compound (an urban poor community in Tondo, Manila)," Lee says. "The list goes on and there are many true life-changing stories."

Common vision

CCT president Ruth S. Callanta says the team up with UMC clicked because they "share a common vision of a poverty-free Philippines."

"The UVUR program is different from other business advocacies in that it is integral as a company's business," Callanta notes. "It is a clear expression of UMC's corporate social responsibility."

For Lee, the UVUR has given the firm an "expected success to an unexpected degree."

"The beauty of the program is that it taps into the innate desire of people to improve their own lives—to move on to greener pastures and their financial situation to a comfortable level," she says.

UMUR presents the Urvan which comes in variants that run on 12, 15 or 16 people in capacity. It is self-liquidating enterprise such as a charter service or any type of towing business—be it as a carpool, cargo van, rental van or ambulance.

Lee cites the interest that UVUR generated has translated to P1 billion inquiries from overseas Filipino workers.

The campaign boosted Urvan sales to 60 to 70 units a month.

"Now we have to aggressively improve on the UVUR so that the level of our operational customer base, including 1 companies that are willing to support their employees to get into the program," Lee says.

JAPELLA CRESPO

Internet cafes turn housemates to teen entrepreneurs

TUBY MAY NOT HAVE stayed long enough to make their claim as the ultimate Pinoy Big Brother fans but roommates Jamille Obispo and Brenda Fee are winners in their own right after PLDT myDSL and Everything Online (EOL) awarded them their very own PLDT myDSL Internet Cafe Plus (IC+) franchise.

Homemaker Jamille, a new mom from Laguna and Brenda, a 16-year-old Olongapo native, each received an Internet Cafe Plus franchise that allows them to easily set up their own Internet cafe business powered by PLDT myDSL. EOL president Macky Gonzaco sees no limit as the official turnover held recently at SM Megamall is personally brief the girls about their new business.

IC+ offers budding entrepreneurs a low-cost, quick start-up Internet cafe business with limitless revenue possibilities for as low as P95,000 only. The package includes PC bundles, Internet-enabled cordless gaming systems, computer tables and chairs, and pre-installed software applications for online gaming, e-learning and an on-line Internet Café billing system.

Aside from providing Internet access, IC+ franchisees can earn additional income from selling electronic load and rating of more than 100 prepaid cards such as Ragnarok and Smart Buddy. They will also receive business development training and on-call technical support for hardware and software problems.

PLDT myDSL is the country's leading high voice-by-broadband Internet service provider, offering dedicated, unlimited and uninterrupted access to the web. It dominates the 200,000 mark more than 200,000 myDSL subscribers nationwide, commanding a 70 percent stronghold on small and medium and business clients. PLDT myDSL also commands a huge share of the Internet café end-user segment gaining market with its advanced Internet infrastructure and integrated network-ing facilities.

For more information on Internet Cafe Plus, visit www.myDSL.ph/cafeplus.ph. For PLDT myDSL and other PLDT products and services, log on to www.mydsl.net, call 171 or visit your nearest PLDT Business Office for details.

BRENDA Fee

Your skin care line, your franchise

TO STRENGTHEN ITS foothold in the domestic skin care market and to develop more entrepreneurs in the country, Godiva Inc. is offering franchising opportunities with its two business models, the Godiva Cart/Kiosk and Godiva Skin Station.

The Godiva cart franchise requires an initial investment of P350,000 and a payback period of one to two years, depending on the location. The Godiva cart is a 1.5 m x 2 m unit located in select mall locations with high foot traffic exclusively selling products in Godiva natural skin care product.

Godiva natural skin care products natural the launch of licensed skin whitening line in 1996. Since then, Godiva's product lines have grown to more than 40 SKUs with more in the pipeline that will surely surprise the market for their innovativeness. From skin whitening, Godiva has developed natural anti-aging, acne-care, and sun care products.

The franchise for Godiva Skin Station is open to investors willing to devote time and resources to pre-approved locations in Timog, Shaw-blvd., Ortigas, Greenhills, North Edsa and Eastwood. Soon to open in Cebu City, San Fernando, Pampanga and Davao are also available for franchising. Total investment is from P1.5 million to P4.5 million.

Godiva has two company-owned Skin Stations in SM Fairview and Makati Rel-Air. A third branch will open this December in Alabang by its first franchisee.

Godiva Skin Stations offer facials and body treatments services and a specialty formulated Godiva products. It is different in that it focuses on high-value services, treatments and procedures performed by in-house dermatologists and highly-trained estheticians. The results is faster payback of from 1.5 to 2 years.

Godiva Inc. engaged the services of GMB Franchise Consultancy, whom long list of successful clients include Figaro Coffee, to ensure the seamless and professional implementation of the Godiva franchise concepts.

For inquiries, call 898-9845.

SONIA L. Ocampo personally mans her store

Cupcakes that sell like *hotcakes* because of blogs

By Amy R. Roxas

CUPCAKES BY SONIA OWNED SONIA L. Ocampo did not have to invest any money at all for a marketing campaign or any promotional gimmicks.

The things did it for her. For free.

"It was really unintentional. After my first delivery of cupcakes to a friend for her son's birthday party in November 2008, it all went uphill from there. A lot of people were asking where they could get those cupcakes," relates a positively shy Ocampo.

Ocampo, who used to work for New York City's Magnolia Bakery and got back only in October 2008, admits that she did not have a marketing plan at all.

"Word got around that I have these cupcakes and even thing I know, the cupcakes were already being featured in blogs and people were calling for orders," says Ocampo.

A blog is a website where entries are made in journal style.

Ocampo's cupcakes were first featured at a blog called "Ramblings From a Gypsy Soul" (http://gypsysoul7.blogspot.com/), the own-

CUPCAKES B4

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Animating the animation industry

RP needs to shape, mold digital artists who can create original works

By Eduardo R. Pheasie Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE Philippine animation industry were in the 1990s. Or so says industry experts. Big names from and investors were swimming in studios like Walt Disney and Cartoon Network, preferred Filipino cartoons for such animated cartoon films as Scooby Doo, the Flintstones and Dragon Ball Z.

Filipino animators used to average P100,000 for a 22-minute animation episode and $300,000 for a full length film. Today, it's down to one third of those figures. (Read I Hate of the Studio Reports, 2004)

Other countries in Asia have become the leaders in animation. A lot of that may have to do with the fact that Philippine production prices are 50 percent higher than China or India, 40 percent higher than Korea and 20 percent higher than Singapore. Of course, "Outsourced to the United States, expansion and European animation, the Philippines is still a cheaper source.

The UK is more expensive by 20 percent, Japan by 40 percent and the US by 90 percent. The regulates the huge outsourcing or offshoring the market for animated films. (Read 2 Years of the Boiler Report, 2004)

In 2004, the global animation industry was worth $68 billion. This climbed to $90 billion in 2005. The Philippine share is less than one tenth of one percent of that amount. The DTI-measured Philippine animation exports of $40 million in 2004, up from $21 million in 2003. (To be estimated conclusions by Indian companies in 2004 were $600 million, rising to an estimated $1.8 billion in 2005. (Chatterjee, 2006). Indian exports were calculated at $300 million in 2002).

The Indian, according to Marilyn Hamann of the Animation Guild, Council of the Philippines "have gone as far as to please some of the Philippines' best animation artists ... Some 350 to 200 Filipino artists became CGI by every year. Hollywood is certainly head for India." (Boston, PhilippineNews.com, 2006).

Japan leads the world's animation industry. Japanese anime (also called "anime") are been acclaimed worldwide for its original Japanese-based culture and content, to the extent that it is called "Japanimation" Japanese films have been winning awards and transcending the box office. The top ten Japanese anime grossed $27.5 million admissions in theaters. Roughly 60 percent of the global anime market is controlled by Japan.

Some 400 anime production houses compete in Japan, with 204 of them concentrated in Tokyo. Anime animators have wrapped to the Land of the Rising Sun to become part of Japan's animation boom.

In a ranking of digital competitiveness published by Development Information (U.E. matrix field reach and studies, 2003 and 2004), Japan came out on top with a rating of 9.6. Japan is considered the world leader in four criteria: (1) Innovation and Process Quality, (2) Software, (3) Quality of Workforce, and (4) Technical and Process Quality. It is rated excellent in Global Marketing and Intellectual Property Rights and only good to Affordable Bandwidth. Second place goes to South Korea at 8.5. India is ranked at eighth place with a score of 4.3 while China stood ninth at 4.0. The Philippines received bottom marks of 3.8.

Acceptable subcontractor

The Philippines received low ratings in two categories: Innovation and creativity and global marketing. Its good rating was only in Affordable Bandwidth. The rest of the ratings were mediocre. If the ratings were to be accepted, this means that the Philippines is only able to compete on the basis of price but not in terms of originality. The Philippines is, therefore, an acceptable subcontractor but not the place to be seen setting control tools.

As a potential star for the Creative Industries, the Philippines should rethink its positioning. Right now it is looking at two low-value segments: call centers in the EU and because Filipinos understand American humor, definitely a good asset for cartoon making. However, the biggest and most lucrative returns come from original creations and global promotions. Moreover, the overall tendency is to move towards the more sophisticated 3D animation films while most of Philippine expertise is at the 2D level.

The biggest and most important factor in the Creative Industries is creative talents. The Philippines does not invest seriously in nurturing artists and creative people. We lack patrons and sponsors of the arts. Government gives low budget priority to nurturing dedicated to the advancement of the arts. Business people do not invest enough resources to produce world class productions. As a result, we have become a mediocre player in a field where we can, theoretically excel in.

Filipinos are "right brain" in temperament and thinking. We are not inclined to be left brained, globular and mathematical analytic. Rather we are very visual, intuitive, emotional and creative. However, our school systems and commercial entertainment media do not have excellent program to nurture the Filipino mind.

Animation is an industry which knows no international boundary. As some of the can be easily translated to hundreds of languages. It appeals to universal passions, which are matchless investment, fantasy and laughter are matchless technology to million results. What is needed is the daring and exciting of digital artists who are create original stories and connect globally.

PEOPLE mainly for the of Sonja's cupcakes

INSPIRED by the old-fashioned American kitchen, look she bought mail-order Robert of the store provide customers creative, cozy and tradition business

Cupcakes that sell like hotcakes . . .

ce of which is "a friend of a friend" of Ocampo. Her next blog feature was in "Our Awesome Planet" (http://ourbloggers.com).

"It was online marketing and advertising for free, and I'm very grateful for these blogs that helped spread the word," adds Ocampo.

Cupcakes by Sonja

Located at Avenidas Ramon of Port Royal, Cupcakes by Sonja is New York Style Bakeshop, serving more than 22 flavors of cupcakes.

Some of its flavors include: Pistachio Bergamia, Sweet Hazelnut, Korean Chocolate Day, Mocha Mousse, Lemon Drop, Strawberry Shortcake, Bunny Hop, gore Carrot Cake, Crazy Banana, Peppermint Patty, Chocolate Surprise, Mango Meltdown and Red Velvet Mania. These are Ocampo's own signature creations.

Prices of the cupcake cases range from P40 to P150 apiece.

Cupcakes by Sonja is Manila's first and only bakery dedicated to selling cupcakes.

All is right for shop opened only on Sept. 15. Ocampo's cupcakes are already selling like hotcakes.

In fact, at one point, Ocampo sold more than 900 cupcakes in one day. And that wasn't even during her opening day. She now sells an average of 400 to 600 cupcakes in a day.

"Blogs and word-of-mouth became our most valuable marketing tools. They gave our cupcakes that hype. It was astronomical! I did all the marketing work for me," says Ocampo, who evidently wears the client away chapeau.

Ocampo admits that it was because of the growing number of orders that prompted her to put up a store. 18 months after she delivered her first batch of cupcakes.

Before she opened, she already had a loyal clientele and a ready market for her cupcakes, evident in the numerous blog write-ups, and the cupcake orders she received. In fact, most of the orders she got were from repeat customers.

"I didn't really envision that it would be this big. When I opened, I knew that I can never be confident enough so I train the store owners they need to look for me and I can help you so," says Ocampo.

Why cupcakes?

Ocampo, who used to work with Bigmedia, is one of the owners of the Good Kitch Kitchens Restaurant in Rockside. Chef Bobong Town Center and Bibingka Original.

Geschenet with a Marketing Management degree from De La Salle University, Ocampo pursued further studies in the Wilton School of Cake Decorating in Illinois. Out where she honed her skills in the art of making wedding cakes. She is also a graduate of Ted's the Culinary Arts and Baking and Pastry Arts Program of the Institute of Culinary Education in New York.

She then landed a job together with a wedding planner at a party scheduled in New York's largest running famed restaurant Sakura, Bombay where she stayed for two and a half years. In 2005, she had a brief stint in Magnolia Bakery.

CUPCAKES are baked fresh daily

It was during her stay on New York that she received the greatest praise for of cupcakes, which caught New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Texas and even Australia and Canada by storm.

Ocampo felt that Manila should not miss in the way as the rest of the whole world embark on this sugary cuisine-like odyssey.

This is the main proposition for Ocampo to create Cupcakes by Sonja, Manila's first and only bakery dedicated to these child-hood delicacies.

When Ocampo got back from the US in October 2005, she started baking again, experimenting on flavors and focusing on cupcakes.

"When I started taking orders from friends and acquaintances, I initially planned to offering cupcakes only in our village," recalls Ocampo. "But after word got around, I delivered, sometimes only three or six pieces of cupcakes, to as far as Greenhills and Quezon City."

"I didn't want to disappoint any of my customers so I tried my best to deliver what was ordered, too," adds Ocampo.

Ocampo explains that she personally delivers cupcakes and keeps in touch with her customers because she wants to get feedback from them.

And it was a good move, too. Because a lot of Ocampo's customers were satisfied by her cupcakes and her service. Ocampo's regular base landed on the personal recipients of recently self-created and more popular food-flavored-shoppers.

Offerings

This Christmas, Cupcakes by Sonja will be offering bite-sized, Christmas-themed cupcakes, ideal-suited for gifts.

The bakery will also now offer other sweet-tor selection of old-fashioned dessert delicacies aside from cupcakes.

For now, Ocampo says she is content with her business store and hopes to expand the cupcake craze in the months and years to come.

Three years for dream ...

The Iconoclaster-talk Indonesia was provoked by signing a summit medium of agreement in November 2005 under which the Sanlorin, Bandung Inc. Quarantine and Security agencies based in Soekarno Station City have committed to support the harmonization of direct shipping links between the Port of Cebu—the designated entry-exit point for JAGI-CT, and the Ports of Tahuran and Bitung on the Indonesian side.

Recently, the Port of Cebu was declared an international port of entry for immigration purposes, which means that the Cebu field office of the Bureau of Immigration is now allowed to allow passports of incoming and outgoing passengers in and from Indonesia.

Local officials are now working on declaring the Clan Port as an International Port of Entry by Customs and Fishery purposes, again, to strengthen the trade links between the local goods and neighborhoods.

Top area talks are also underway to sign a memorandum of agreement with Indonesia to allow the JAGI-CT fishermen to catch fish in Indonesian waters.

Such bold moves to develop were bound to be noticed.

In October 2005, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and with the JAGI-CT leaders in General Santos City and they got P40 million to finance the construction of the improvements for not sure in trade and investments in JAGI-CT alone.

From the people are feeling the changes.

Because the shared local officials of the three municipalities have to seek regulations in different committees under JAGI CT, they got to know each other and developed a deeper understanding of different cultures about Christians, Muslims, Ilhans and Philippine-born Indonesians come together during the many meetings.

Before sees the friendship between the three municipalities has developed to a point that the residents of the municipalities now freely greet and interact with their neighbors that they used to have nothing to do with.

Their concept of home has extended beyond the boundaries of their municipality to include those of the other two.

Mindoro chief Virgilio Inventario says JAGI-CT has become a role model for other municipalities seeking to bond together and thrive in a dynamic.

He says Mindoro is proud to have had a role in putting JAGI-CT on its feet, adding that Mindoro was looking at doing the same for other Ilan-minded municipalities.

If the Indonesian municipalities can do it, so can others.

Doing away with in-out shopping

Abigail L. Ho

IN A SOCIETY WHERE BEAUTY products are a dime a dozen and cosmetics stores can be found on almost every street corner in the metro, anyone who wants to succeed in the beauty market should offer something that images or has never been seen before.

And that isn't much, considering the numerous gimmicks that cosmetics and beauty parlors employ to lure and retain customers and filling seats throughout the year, from appearances by celebrities to exclusive deals and lifelong memberships with homegrown billboards advertising their wares.

But Marionnaud, Europe's largest beauty perfumeries and cosmetics chain, says undeterred, even choosing Manila to be the venue of its first store in Asia.

Mieta Herman, strategic director for luxury perfumeries and cosmetics-Asia at Marionnaud parent AS Watson Group, says it's the Filipinos' openness to new ideas that has brought the luxury perfumery and fragrance giant in the country.

"We did a lot of research around the countries [and] we found that[Filipinos are very open to new ideas, especially in fragrances. There's a stronger fragrance market here than in South Asia, so it actually matches the fragrance and cosmetics market," she explains during a recent Manila visit.

The Hong Kong-based Swedish executive says the Philippine market is ready for a new way of selling cosmetics and fragrances—one that goes beyond the trendy walking into a store, picking out a product and paying for it, and walking out in just a matter of minutes.

MANA/Norman

Retail entertainment

Marionnaud is banking on the concept of "retail entertainment," which, Herman says, is quickly becoming a global trend, sweeping across various countries all over the world.

Retail entertainment does away with the "in-and-out" shopping experience, where shoppers visit cosmetics and fragrance stores just to get whatever they need.

She admits that the concept is really nothing new, but it's the way Marionnaud executes it that sets it apart from the rest.

"The concept is really holistic beauty—living a beautiful life, spending time with your friends. And you can take your time around the store. You can test everything. We even have beauty consultants and great make-up artists," Herman claims.

She adds that customers can spend as much time with their friends in the store, enjoying everything from manicures and pedicures, to relaxing massages and facials, to hair and make-up experiments with the help of in-store experts.

"We've gotten really good feedback, very positive response, from those who have already gone on a chance to visit the store. I believe people are always looking for something new, and our concept represents a new way of selling luxury cosmetics," she says.

Unique offerings

Apart from its wide array of products, Marionnaud's range of services.

Its massage range not only includes the usual foot reflexology, back and head massages, but also unique offerings such as the Marionnaud "Signature" Massage, which combines the traditional Filipino "hilot" with Swedish techniques, and the Fusion Massage that blends Thai and Swedish massage techniques to eliminate body stiffness and at the same time enhance flexibility.

The store also provides an extensive line of manicure and pedicure services, which Herman herself claims can feel almost like heaven, especially after a long day of standing and walking around in three-inch heels.

The ultimate manicure and pedicure services, each having an hour and costing P600, include a soothing hand or foot massage and cleansing scrub, upper foot like nail polish job for the hands and the foot reflexology and lotion application for the feet.

Beauty-savant Full spa manicure and pedicure services are also offered for P600 each. These are designed to relax tense hand and foot muscles.

Aforementioned merchandise and marketing manager Sim Zelia says the nail bar alone got numerous visitors daily.

The store likewise offers make-up services—hair and make-up, eye shake up, and full make-up—via its in-house make-up experts.

Not just women

While the store's offerings are designed mainly for beauty-conscious women, Herman says like-minded also-targets men as well as people who are not really that into make-up.

"We don't just offer make-up. We also have a lot of skin care products as well as aroma[therapeutic plans. For men, we also have a wide selection of skin care products. More and more men are now looking after themselves," she says. "We also attract men who want to find good gifts for the women in their lives."

Right now, she says majority of the store's customers are still women—those who are content to be with their cosmetics, who love to travel and try new things, and who love beauty.

What the future holds

With the good response it has gotten for its first store in Asia, Herman says plans are now on the drawing board to open stores in other Asian countries, particularly in China.

It is also possible for another Marionnaud store to open in Manila, she says.

"The Philippine beauty market is growing fast. The luxury beauty market is growing even faster. If we can bring something new to the market, specifically to the Asian market, then we will do so," she says.

Evidently, its customers will devour Marionnaud's license to the Philippines and more numbers. As long as there are people who love beauty and who care about their overall wellness, she says Marionnaud will be here to stay.

THE BEAUTY store also becomes a nail bar, a spa and facial area, and even a juice bar.

GOINGS-ON

Soap making course set at UP Baguio

THE GOLDEN TREASURE SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM will conduct a one-day seminar on soap making in behalf of the Arab nations of the University of the Philippines, Governor Pack Rd., Baguio City on Nov. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The seminar will teach technical basics how on how to make different soaps. Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, coating.

There will be a hands-on experience on how to make liquid dish washing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all purpose soap, bar detergent soap, herbal bath soap (papaya, balamban), cucumber, oatmeal, etc.), powder soap.

Demo-trainees on how to make liquid bleach, oils and towel cleaner, fabric softener, car shampoo.

Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. All the materials will be provided including lunch and snacks. The seminar is open for all who would like to venture into soap making business.

For questions call (632) 952-40-28 (632) 436-78-20; (632) 952-29-39, (632) 951-29-66, and (632) 913-65-51.

Investing in real estate talk on Nov. 22

THE URBAN INSTITUTE WILL CONDUCT A LECTURE ON "INVESTING In Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What are needed to be learned" on Nov. 22, 2006, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Mariner Function Room, Second Floor, Mart's Basement, near Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The 4-hour lecture will include pitfalls and steps in real estate investments; why real estate appreciates; pros and cons of investing in vacant land; different areas of opportunities, techniques and how-tos in real estate investment such as buy and sell; build and sell; property leasing; rehabilitation of foreclosed and distressed properties.

For queries, call 687-8926 or 896-6276 or e-mail at urbaninst@pacific.net.ph.

SENATE President Manuel Villar (center) visits "Vision of Progress" exhibit at the Laforge booth of Philcontract at the Whole Trade Center. The exhibit features ceramic-made masterpieces by some of the country's leading sculptors and art artists in fellowship with Laforge Ceramic Services (Phils.) Inc., the sales and marketing provider of the Republic Group of Companies. With Villar are LCSPI vice president Celia Punsalan and group Concepcion, president of the Philippine Construction Association Inc. and DHCI.

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Alaminos opens for business

Town unveils development program

By Yolanda Sonio-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

MAGAMOS

ALAMINOS CITY—THE NEWEST Pangasinan city to open open for business and investments following the unveiling of the city's 20-year master development plan recently is proof Alaminos has the local and international business and tourism mojo.

"The master plan is so detailed that it includes specific projects where investors—big, medium or small—can put in his stakes," says Alaminos Mayor Bernard Bengzon.

"I wrote you that we will make it easy, fast and inexpensive to invest in Alaminos, even if what you want is just simply build a vacation house or adopt an island [at the Hundred Islands National Park] to pursue and enhance it," he says.

"It will be a modern but green city, with no heavy industries, coastal-related facilities and those that draw enough from the rich farm and fishery resources of the city and its satellite towns," he adds.

The plan is also envisioned to create an "Atlantis" out in the Hundred Islands.

Atlantis is architectural continuum in the Atlantic Ocean that was said to have been the seat of an eminent and advanced civilization destroyed by an earthquake.

Called the "Hundred Islands Underwater Marine Park," the project will include the reconstruction of underwater bridges connecting Governor Islets, Bangaan town.

These bridges, he says, will be "transparent, air-filled tubes suspended beneath the water's surface through which tourists can walk between islets to view the underwater scenery of the country's largest marine ecosystem."

The project will also set up fish sanctuaries, snorkeling and diving areas, a facility for water sports and a marine institute where experts can study the biological diversity of the islands and the Lingayen Gulf.

Under the master plan, the city will be divided into clusters with different investment potentials—the HRM the hillock nature park, the heritage walk zone, the commercial farming and the business park zone.

So far, it will be the underwater marine park which will be the "ultimate project—the one that will jumpstart the development" of the city, Bengzon says.

"It will justify all other infrastructure requirements of the city such as an airport, a seaport, highways, hotels, shopping malls and others," he says.

The city commissioned the architectural firm Palafox Associates for the master plan, and the consultancies Wilcon Depot, Inc., the planning, anthropology, coastal plan, topography.

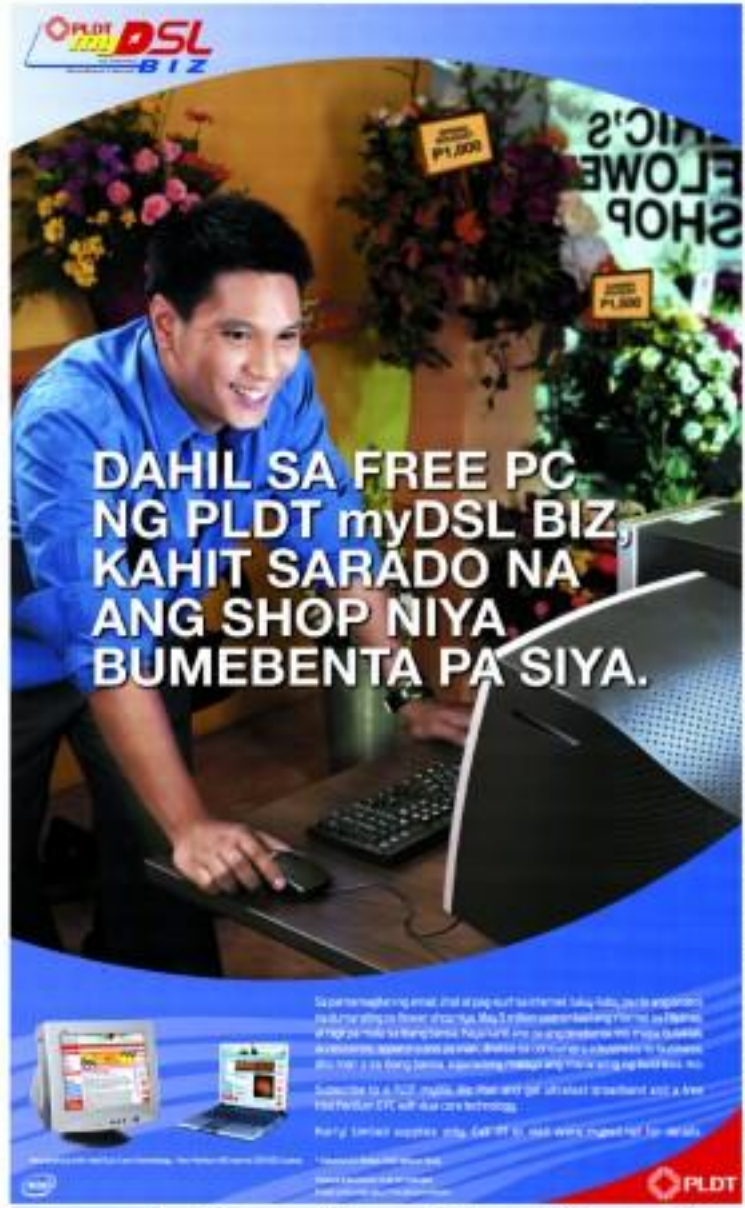
Former President Fidel Ramos, Bengzon's uncle, asked local and foreign investors to put their resources in Alaminos.

"Alaminos is the closest to the fastest growing economic and first-class market of China. Looking at the 10-member states of Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), we are located at the northeastern most part. This is our advantage that we have. We have easy access to China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan," Ramos says.

Agri confab on Nov. 16

NESTLE PHILIPPINES INC. ADMS FOOD makers, the government and members of the academe in the First Sustainable Agriculture Initiative on Nov. 16 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria in Manila. The conference will tackle how the private sector, particularly Chase in the food chain supply, can contribute to the food sup ficiency in the

The Aid Platform is a joint effort by the food industry to actively support the development of sustainable agriculture. Aid hopes to ensure sustainable food supply for a growing population through efficient use of resources by promoting modern and environmentally conscious farming techniques, the food firm said Inquirer. For details, call 667-3649 or 667-3642.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Edited by Chiela Bautista-Formoso

Designing woman

Fashion designer Monique Lhuillier now finds herself being compared to Carolina Herrera, Oscar de la Renta and Vera Wang, her own fashion icons

PLAYTIME
By the Staff

REGARDLESS WHETHER they are fashionistas or not, Filipinos have one more reason to be proud these days. One of their own, Monique Lhuillier, born and bred in Cebu, is wowing a big name in the United States via her designer bridal gowns and figure-flattering evening wear.

In less than 10 years since she and husband Tom Bugbee, a finance man, opened a bridal boutique in Los Angeles which carries her French-sounding name, the designer has been compared to fashion heavyhitters Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera and Vera Wang.

Although she relishes such comparisons, Lhuillier is the first to admit she still has a long way to go to match, much less surpass, the achievements of such end-of-carpet theorists, two of which—Oscar de la Renta and Wang—happen to be her idols.

Lhuillier, 35, is the first to point out, however, that she's not an overnight success, but the product of years of hard work and planning. In a sexual makeover, she started in the fashion industry by joining bridal fairs in Las Vegas.

But becoming a household name in the US, especially among anglophiles, Lhuillier claims, broaden that she regularly featured in such fashion glossies as Vogue, In Style, W, Harper's Bazaar, Modern Bride and Elle.

The petite designer herself has become the preferred choice of a growing number of Hollywood starlets, including Britney Spears, Eva Longoria, Angelina Jolie, Sarah Jessica Parker, Shannon Doherty, Teri Hatcher, Reese Witherspoon, Nicolle Richie, Emmy Rossum and Jessica Alba.

But perhaps the biggest validation that has come Lhuillier's way is her induction in the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America, by virtue of which she has become peer to top designers Donna Karan, Michael Kors, Ralph Lauren and Dr La Renta.

Lhuillier is not one to sit on her laurels. She proved her worth by coming up with dazzling creations even during the New York Fashion Week. It was only a matter of time before daytime-emmy Ellen Cathy Hume and Lord Stanell took notice of her.

Indeed, armed with big dreams and an enduring love affair with clothes—a passion she never fails to credit to mom Augusta—Lhuillier has taken what she learned at the Los Angeles Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising up where no other Filipino designer has gone before.

And tonight she will share her bridal and evening wear collection with her equally jetset and various fashionistas at a dinner and fashion show to be held at Makati Shangri-La. The show, which will benefit the Asia Society and Bantay Bata 163, will have Lea Salonga as guest performer. Incidentally, Salonga wore a Monique Lhuillier bridal gown in her own wedding.

Proud mother of 10-month-old Jack Nicholas, Lhuillier says motherhood hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for work. In fact, she adds, it has made her even more sensitive and sympathetic to the needs of women, her one and only target market.

As fashion shows and home visits go, Lhuillier's calendar is understandably hectic with commitments mostly in her hometown and designer town since she plans to introduce other lines of her own brand.

What's the difference between dealing with celebrities and dealing with ordinary women who come to you for clothes?

Actually, there is no difference. The only dif-

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Designing woman

To page C3

THE DESIGNER is now with husband Tan Bugbus to present her bridal and evening wear collaboration at boutique show.

Not just bridal gowns, but china and dolls, too

TWO OF THE WORLD'S ICONIC brands—Royal Doulton and Annalee's Barbie Doll—now grace bridal registries with a distinctively and exclusively Monique Lhuillier.

The Monique Lhuillier for Royal Doulton collection is scheduled to debut in Spring 2007. It will include Formal bone china, table ware, crystal and glass giftware.

The Monique Lhuillier Bride Barbie doll wears a gown that captures the sophistication of the modern bride with an off-white lace bodice and a full tulle skirt. A white-colored tulle veil extends the train with a chrysanthemum flower brooch. Accessories include "diamond" stud earrings and ring.

A gala dinner show featuring Lhuillier's collection will be held tonight at the Shangri-La Makati. Only the lucky few who've bought or will soon buy Philippines and Hong Kong Barbie dolls.

Organized by the Ayala Group, the show is co-presented by M. Lhuillier Philippines, Nokia Philippines, Rustan's Department and Toyota Specialist Inc.

Show sponsors for the event are Grupo, Cartier, Department of Tourism and Cathay Pacific. Special supporters include Bobi Mohler of Trinity, ICTSI, Citi Motors, Procter & Gamble, Moet & Chandon, Silverdome Plus, Shangri-La Makati, Preview and Marie Claire magazines, Cinnapalor & Son, and Bridejournal.com.

Imelda Cajayon is chair of the month close with Doris Magsaysay Ho, Gina Lopez, Monet Bancale Tacoson and Lizzie Zobel as co-chairs.

Call the box factory at 7524074.

Some of the world's most glamorous women have come to Monique Lhuillier for their big day—their wedding dress, that is. What goes through a typical woman's mind during that preparation, and how do you channel that through your work?

You know, I feel that for the regular woman her wedding day is her Oscar or his red-carpet moment. She wants it to be perfect and all those ceremony go in there. She just wants it to be so perfect so I love that with so much respect as I would if I were dressing a celebrity going down the red carpet. That's what I'm saying. People come to me for their special moment because they know I'm there to make them look their best.

You've been a successful wardrobe you've been away in Indonesia and LA at a young age. Do you still have that Philippine eye in you? And how is that reflected in your clothes?

I haven't lived in the Philippines for maybe 16 years now. But every time I come home, there's that sense of the warmth and that good bonding with the Filipino people. It's the people that I miss so much, and whenever I go and attend either people who are also from the Philippines, there's that instant chemistry, you know. It makes me miss home even more.

So how close that reflect in my work? Like I said earlier, it was about growing up and realizing that beauty was so important to Filipinos. Women always make an effort to look their best and always really appreciate nice clothes, nice things. I think that early on that was instilled in me, so I'm just using the feature throughout my life. But it really started when I was a child.

What about the issues of your design sensibilities as a Filipino?

I would say it's about me designing these dresses, but they need to work on real women, and it's not like I put something out there that's only great for show. These clothes really work in real bodies. So I think that's part of the success, yes.

Do you wear other designers?

I do. I wear Chloe a lot. A little bit of Marni. Marc Jacobs. Hmm, Dolce and Gabbana. I do the high-low a lot so I wear Club Monaco, a little bit—a very little bit—of the Gap (laughter), ah, the white swimsuit T-shirt. So I like to do that, you know, mix things up.

What are you wearing now? Pink's Club Monaco, right?

No, the top is. Cookie at her contact. **This is a Monique blouse with Monique pants, a Ralph Itch and Club Monaco sandals.**

And your shoes?

Manolo Blahnik.

And your watch?

Oh, my goodness. (Looks at her gold watch) Audemars Piguet. (Laughter) And this dress, I worked with Manolo designs, too.

And that's going to be on the runway?

This is what I used on the runway in New York, and now I'm using it here. I've worked with his company for the last one-and-a-half years to team up with shoes for my collections.

I wear Chloe a lot. A little bit of Marni. Marc Jacobs. Hmm, Dolce and Gabbana. I do the high-low a lot so I wear Club Monaco, a little bit—a very little bit—of the Gap (laughter).

Now that you're famous, when you walk down the street, how do you feel when people recognize you?

It's a little bit strange, the feeling, because I never did this to become a celebrity. You know what I mean? I'm here to design celebrities and other people who want what I do. I mean, I dress people. So I don't look at myself as a celebrity. But people do recognize me and say, "Aren't you Monique?" What's nice is, they never treat me just as my clan, they always say, you know, "The dress that I wore at your show me feel so special," or "I really remember this one." That makes me feel even better, because it makes me feel like I'm doing some good and there and making a difference in their lives and their special moments.

Do you attend to your customers meetings?

Huh. Uhuh. I think the load I'll do it.

It's impossible?

It's quite, yes, impossible, because I do five collections a year and then I travel and do all these shows. And with the product extensions, I just don't have time to meet all my customers. But they buy my dresses and they tell me about the experiences after.

Don't you feel pressured now that you're being compared to Vera Wang? How are you and Vera Wang personally? (Laughter)

Are you really, for real? (Laughter) Seriously that. (Laughter) Cute...

Sorry, go ahead.

You threw me off. (Laughter) No, so that's going to launch. I'm really excited because they're not necessarily evening bags, and I have my shoe line bags and shoes.

What's your advice for women preparing for their wedding who cannot afford a Monique Lhuillier? How do they prepare for their big day in search of a gown?

I don't really find by and outside it. You to be stalled out and compared to the people.

Isn't it limiting in a way?

Well, you know it was a challenge in the regard people couldn't think of me as designer outside of just doing wedding dresses.

Do you still have to fine dress that separates?

Lots and lots. I feel like my gowns have really created that line and now people know me for all kinds of things.

How has motherhood helped your creativity?

It's given me the sensibility that women don't have time, she's always need to look great, they need to dig up that dress, and, if it looks great, they're going to wear it. It's made me more practical and also more forward, because I don't have time to dilly-dally and it's also made me a little more emotional. It's really a great thing. Now I feel complete. I've been married almost 12 years, and the business was always one to, no. Now, to have a family life outside of that has really been wonderful for me. Now I feel like I can even do more without time.

What's your next step? Are you working on a special project now? Or maybe another line, perhaps perfumes?

The china. That's coming out in April. We're doing fine china with Royal Doulton, stemware, glassware, that's all coming out in April, and then the handbags that I'm doing are coming out in April also. And then another down the line, we're working on a fragrance. We don't have a release date yet but that's in the works. I'm also working on a hotel suite with Richard Branson. He's opening his first property in New York and I'm going to do the honeymoon suite.

Can you give us a sneak peak of your next collection, or maybe your bridal collection?

The bridal collection is very unique. It's all about exotic skins. I worked with a lot of exotic, crocodile and alligator and ostrich, and then I beaded some of them.

**Are you ready for Oscar

168 feng shui ways to win

THIS WEEK, INQUIRER READERS will have another chance to win exciting prizes while discovering valuable information about feng shui, the Chinese art of luck consciousness.

Inquirer is continuing the sure-win promo, "168 Feng Shui Ways to Win," in cooperation with World of Feng Shui (WOFS) and Smart Telecommunications. The promotion is in line with the Philippine Feng Shui Extravaganza 2007 on Jan. 27 hosted by WOFS Philippines featuring world renowned feng shui expert Lillian Too and Philippine feng shui expert Marites Allen. A total of 168 weekly winners will be chosen, with 156 getting loans of Lucky Forever Cordless and wireless gifts; and 10 getting 15 Day tickets (worth P7,000 each) to the 2007 Feng Shui Extravaganza.

Other prizes are two Rossa watches (courtesy of Washington Inc.) and one gift certificate worth 15,000 from WOFS Philippines. Prizes are nondurable but not consumable or cash. A list of weekly winners will be published in the World of Feng Shui Tai Tibia Promo section in the Lifestyle section of this newspaper.

Auspicious locations

According to basic feng shui principles, the location of your home can determine if you and your family will have a good life. If your surroundings are auspicious, then excellent luck will follow you and most of your undertakings as long as you live there.

This is because the natural environment is very powerful, so even if your intentions might suffer from feng shui violations, their negative impact would not be so significant.

The best location, according to classical feng shui, is defined through the representation of celestial animals that tutor mostly in elevated landforms.

Black turtle hills are the mountains behind, which should ideally be north of the house. Green dragon hills are those on the left and, ideally, should be in the east. White tiger hills are those on the right which, ideally, should be in the west. The red phoenix hillock should be in front, or the south.

The overall shape looks like an armchair, cocooning a life of ease and comfort.

Enchanting landscapes are always better than flat ones, because the armchair formation is not easy to find in the natural landscape and could be very expensive, the next best thing is to simulate it. The ground behind should be higher than the land in front.

If it is possible, create a little mound that resembles the back of a turtle at the back of your house, representing the north sector, for long life and protection. The land on the left side of the house or the east (green dragon) should be higher than those on the right side (white tiger) on the west. If it is the other way around, it could be disadvantageous to the residents.

In urban landscape, the building on the left should be higher than the building on the right. The south, or the area in front of the house, should be flat or at least lower than the back, the right or the left side, and should have a clear view. The front (phoenix) represents opportunities for material comfort and, therefore, should not be blocked.

If it is absolutely impossible to create these landforms in your surroundings, one alternative is to display representations of celestial animals in the right part of the house. For example, hang a painting or a picture of a turtle in the back or north portion.

Keep one (and only one) live turtle as a pet or, if that is not possible, use a ceramic or bronze one. Or for some thing for a drop-on symbol on the east side of the living room.

Be careful not to place a dragon painting inside the bedroom. The dragon is a powerful yang symbol and is not suitable in a place of rest where you must be the dominant energy.

The same principle applies to the Japanese koi or the crimson phoenix. Do not even think of live ones and the legendary phoenix. For representations of these animals in the west and south sectors of your house, in place of the phoenix, use any decorative bird like pictures of a pink flamingo or a rooster.

Today's trivia question

What aspect of the house can determine a person's luck? A. its shape B. its rear C. its location D. its design

To join, future subscribers simply have to submit a one-time registration by keying in WOFS REG <name/age/gender> (ex. WOFS REG <Rosa up/25/F>) and sending it to 288. Only one registration per mobile number will be allowed. To send an entry, subscribers simply have to choose from four possible answers to the question of the day. Call 9117888, 9188000, or 0920-9589290 or text WOFS to 3018 for future subscribers.

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Get into the Loop!

The international fashion designer Monique Lhuillier presents her acclaimed Spring/Summer 2007 RTW and bridal collection tonight at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Make way for Imelda, Il Divo and Monique Lhuillier

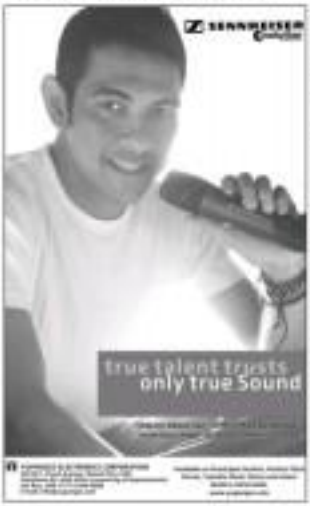
IL DIVO—LIVE IN Manila. It's finally happening: Il Divo, the group that has broken all the rules and bars rules opera into the global mainstream, is coming to Manila on Jan. 20, 2007. This surely is the best way to greet the new year!

Il Divo is currently on a 10-year with no less than legendary diva Barbra Streisand, who hand-picked them to be her opening act. In a USA Today interview Streisand said, "It's like having 'The Four Tenors' but the four young, hot tenors. They're cute and they have beautiful voices. What more could you ask for?"

The group is composed of four handsome and talented men, namely American tenor David Miller, French tenor Sébastien Izambard, Swiss tenor Urs Bühler and Spanish baritone Carlos Marín.

And for those who can't wait for January, the good news is that their third album, "Siempre," is scheduled for global release on Nov. 27. The album features IDM's (it's amazing how we classify including "Indonesian," which they are currently performing in Streisand's tour. Also featured are four brand new tracks "Come Fly with Me," "La Vida Sin Amor," "Una Noche" and "Tell That To My Heart," as well as an adaptation of John Miles' "Music," which he especially rewrote for the guys who have performed it with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Il Divo will perform at the PICC Plenary Hall on Jan. 20 at 8 p.m.



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TRENDS & TREMORS
Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE mag: Vogue (UK) Living with Jay on the cover

This one-night-only show is almost sold out, so reserve your seats now. Don't be a prohibitable Pinoy and wait for the last minute to get your tickets, because this one will go fast.

And here's an added treat: If you sign up with Smart Infinity Plan P1,000, you will get a Rolex ICU and two VIP tickets to the concert. Interested parties may call the Smart Infinity Hotline number or 1440 from the.

This event is presented by Smart Infinity, in cooperation with Sun Life Financial and Rado Watches of Switzerland. Also brought to you by Philippine Tatler and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Tune in to 92.3 Jazz for more details on how to get your hands on these exclusive invites. Call Concerts in Inc. at 8173851 or 8722017.

Imelda Marcos—the next fashion star? Guess who's coming to the Indian Embassy? None other than former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who's all set to launch a fashion line and accessories collection on Nov. 16 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

Spearheading the launch is daughter Bai. Imee Marcos and president Bongbong Marcos. There is an interesting clue of Mrs. Marcos lying on a divan being photographed by Borgy's team; she is wearing the accessories line called the "Imelda Collection."

The prices, according to the jewelry line spokespeople, will not be "Imeldific," but will range from P1,000-P5,000. Will shoes be next? According to time, "Not yet."

"Sex and the City" the movie. "Grey's Anatomy" still ranks high in my books as the best TV series today. There was a time, however, when "Sex and the City" ruled it over the bands radio, TV and evil, phone wires. The ladies (Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis) have since been doing their own thing, but here's good news for those who miss the series: The ladies are reuniting in the "Sex and the City" film.

The reunion movie has taken a long time to come together, since there were reports that Kim Cattrall (remember, she's the one in the show pregnant, that all kinds have been tossed out and throwing it around?) is really real year.

TGI: top shakers for Screen. her: TV series—"Brothers and Sisters." Alias "Grey's Anatomy." Abs is my favorite TV series. The show, only on its first season (it's on to be shown in Manila), revolves around the Walker family. It's a television 21st century family and how the children deal with their parents as well as their own personal struggles and triumphs. The show is headlined by no less than Sally Field and Calista Flockhart of "Ally McBeal" fame.

Magazine—Vogue Living. Our front is all towards it. US August's issue offering. Vogue Living, which for its first issue has Jennifer Lopez on the cover. The bi-annual magazine edited by Hannah Rowles is about homes, gardening, entertainment, interiors, etc. It also includes interviews, travel, beautiful homes around the world, and has the biggest paperback that makes it a truly adventurer chic makes it a truly adventurer chic fashion-conscious. It's the perfect addition to the list of reads of every stylish woman who wants only the best.

Oh—Josh Groban's "Awake." I recently received an exclusive copy of Josh Groban's third album courtesy of Warner Music Philippines, and I am mesmerized. Josh ups the bar several notches with beautiful music, lyrics and, of course, Josh' voice that has captivated the world. The album is set to all the sound waves, so make sure you get it.

Monique Lhuillier gala fashion show tonight. This is surely the most awaited event of the year. The pride of the Philippines, international fashion designer Monique Lhuillier, comes home and presents her acclaimed Spring/Summer 2007 RTW and bridal collection tonight at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Lhuillier, who arrived last Sunday, has been busy with preparations, fittings and choosing the models for tonight's event. Last Wednesday, she received a national merit award from President Arroyo, who I hear will be attending her show tonight.

From the first time we featured her in the fabulous Filipina two years ago, as the first interview and photo shoot for the Philippine Tatler in August 2005, we have reported on this woman's accomplishments which have made her country proud.

Tonight is a culmination of all the expectations, anticipations. I am sure we can all be proud of this talented Filipina. To Monique, Bob, Michel and Alexandra and the Lhuillier family, congratulations!

E-mail: antonsd@philstar.com

MUST-HAVE CD: Josh Groban's fourth awaited third album, "Awake"

Last day of antique sale

THE INVENTORY SALE OF the Bhanlis Arts and Antiques Center (BAAC) ends today (Sunday).

BAAC is at Philtrade, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. It sells all kinds of local antiques...furniture, porcelain, ivory, paintings, religious items, lamps, jewelry.

Shops at Hall 4 are Condrey's Antiques, Salud of 's Bric, Josie's Antiques, Hidalgo Antiques, Sawa's Antiques, Dolina Gallery, Etches, Rhoda's Antiques, Felix's Antiques, Isaura's Antiques and Casa Linda, and Isabel's Antiques.

At Centre Hall are Glenn Bandarin Arts and Furniture, Bhel's Sculptures and Irma's Antiques. Hall 7 has Thomson House, Jo-Ann Antiques, Kabila Antiques, Agustin Antiques, Mi Antiques, Dennis Bunn Antiques, Spirit of Art, Calangan Antiques, R. E de la Rosa Arts, Ames Antiques, Elaine Simon, Mi N Art, Oscar Antiques and Bhanlis Bunn Décor.

The Manila Arts and Antiques Center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 5734606 and 5734607.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

TRIANOMA or the Triangle Mall of Manila is meant to be "the center of retail, dining and entertainment in Quezon City," according to Ayala Malls executives.

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NORTH OF MANILA

A triangle takes shape

Ayala Malls bills its new development project, Trinoma, the first regional shopping center

By Linda B. Bohle

IT MAY NOT BE OUT TO CREate another Hanging Garden of Babylon bar, for its next development project, Ayala Malls is turning landscaping on its head, raising the bar—literally—by putting the greenery as the top rather than below.

In fact, even the fountain is defying gravity—flowing upward instead of the traditional downward.

That should be good for both humans and plants as they will be spared the toxic emissions from motor vehicles that ply Edsa and the noises motorists that crisscross it.

For its first foray into Quezon City, erstwhile Philippine capital where most commercial agencies are headquartered and some of the biggest schools are located, Ayala Malls is putting all the stops, bringing a little of the Makati Commercial Center (MCC), primarily its best-known development projects Glorietta and Greenbelt, to QC with Trinoma, short for Triangle North of Manila.

The more commercially focused Glorietta look-alike will be in the lower floors while the laid-back Greenbelt copy will be on the upper level.

And the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), which ends abruptly at North Avenue like it has suddenly lost its bearing or lost its sense of direction, will finally have some sort of purpose. It will connect directly to the new mall, giving its passengers the luxury of not having to go out into the heat and dust and madness of Edsa but straight into the air-conditioned comfort of Trinoma.

Set to open by the second quarter of 2007, Ayala Malls also calls Trinoma its first regional shopping center as it is designed to service not just Quezon City and neighboring Caloocan's residents, but also those coming from provinces north of Metro Manila.

Also leading directly to the mall are Mindanao and North Avenues, among others.

Offering a wide array of fresh retail choices carefully chosen with the Quezon City market in mind, Trinoma is meant to be "the

A TRIANGLE ST

AYALA combines the best of Glorietta and Greenbelt in Trinoma.

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THE NET Group head Charito Ruffino flanked by Annex girls Nicole Gotladera, Wing Manalang, Tina Yan and Monica Galvadon

BUSINESS executives Jun Lagonoy, Jun Tambunting, Julie and Werner Manning

FASTEST Filipino NYC Marathon finisher Jun-Jun Rufino, Chessa Carpio, Joel Ferrer, Jeanne Filipina Amanda Carpio, Jean Marie Tan and Kris Mijares

Convergence is key to a busy life

TESSA! *Jessa Prieto-Valdez*

CONVERGENCE IS TRULY the way of the future. That's as true for social events as it is for technology.

Three days, events here so many functions—offers an eclectic pleasure. The total party concept at the congestion of fashion, art, photography, food and music.

Art and technology are at the forefront of this new wave of fusion. There are no boundaries.

Take the recent launch party of The Net Group, developers of revolutionary boutique-style office buildings at the Fort. The group already has three highly intelligent buildings—The Net One Center, Net Square and Net Cube.

For the launch, the group created a collaboration of creative visionaries in various fields. Entering Net Square, curious guests were escorted through media elevators into a space with gigantic, arresting photographs by Victor Consunji. As hordes of Jesse Rutitzer wine were being poured, partygoers were served floating food prepared by Chef Mara Aubrey of Gourmand with Chef Melinda Leuthor of Bistro Filipino.

A two-story, simultaneous fashion show featuring two top designers, Rhett Eala and Rajo Laurel, was the highlight of the evening. Directed by Jaqui Evasco' Bobby Carmona, the cutting-edge yet stylish creations were further accented by the dramatic makeup executed by face artist Erik Mandigan of Studio 54b at the Shang Hilll.

Unique, too, was the music by Chill One DJ Mithai Ramos. The Net Group commissioned this talented DJ to create an original soundtrack that would be pinging throughout the common areas of its buildings, pushing visitors into the perfect contemplative mood for them to appreciate the artwork of Antoni Zor had de Ayala in the lobby of The Net One Center.

It was truly a convergence evening, home big a Chardon fusion of sound, space and style.

Passionate artist

Art does play a key role in generating aesthetic value for any space. Inspy Pitapit, a passionate artist interested for her works in glass, has created works displayed all over the world. It's always a pleasant discovery to find some of her latest-known installations, such as the playful mobile hanging from the ceiling of Milky Way Building on Pasay Road.

Her most recent, meticulously executed convergent creations come in lustrous combinations of stone, marble, glass and stainless steel, and are now on exhibit at Alliance Française de Manille. Titled "Oceanic Incidences," each piece juxtaposes textures and sentiment materials that function as icons of iconic to recall the movement of waves.

Soulful Inspy is one of the most deeply spiritual artists I know. Her visually wonderful pieces elicit peace and calmness with hints of inspirational notes. Inspired by the ocean, Inspy's shapes are reminiscent of forms in her signature materials—glass and micro-finished stainless steel—that splash, pounded by currents, and frozen and marble bases. The rather flowing glass sculpture is all of 9 ft in height and encourages one to be emotionally imbued with the art piece.

"Oceanic Incidences's" opening gathered one art aficionados as well as new faces who were impressed with the undulating shapes before them. Inspy has brought in a much-needed artful air into the lives of people by really motivating them to experience art. This artist is a true inspiration to the public, especially the younger generation. She has renewed wellness and strength are so life with her revolutionary creations.

The catch the exhibit, which runs until Nov. 25 at the Alliance Française's Ford Gallery. E-mail info@alliancefr.ph or visit Inspy Pitapit's official website, www.inspypitapit.com.

Affordable fair

Art does not need to be elusive for those with expensive tastes and budgets. The Museum Foundation of the Philippines will be having its second Art in the Park on Nov. 18, all day until 2 p.m., at Solaegan Park in Gabriela Silang, Makati.

This entertaining, educational and affordable fair provides an avenue for young artists and even some veterans to casually exhibit and sell their paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures. Museum Foundation head Maribel Ongpin is promoting an awareness to all and is really bringing art to the young.

Inspired by the Art Bus at The Rocks in Sydney, Australia, Museum Foundation's Gina Henares and Tibbie Lopez created this fair for the public to leisurely enjoy and purchase affordable art pieces. With a portion of sales going to support the Museum Foundation's work in raising awareness for the National Museum, I will surely be there to mingle and shop, too.

Keep watch for festive season inviting along. I have managed to keep my physical activities as a top priority. Unfortunately as gravity starts to exert its influence on any curvy areas of my body, I have had to pump up to plump down.

Recently, I tried Pilates with instructor Andrea Mercado (tel. 0917-5279403). This style is very core-centric and is different from other Pilates instructors I have tried. She's been a back saver for my hubby Renato, who regularly works out with Andrea (who also happens to be his sister).

For workout or just-for-fun badminton players, the Blue-ster School is hosting a Golden Jubilee Badminton Tournament on Dec. 9-10 at Veuve Badminton Club at the Liberty Center on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. The last working date is this morning until noon at Xavier School Sports Center in Greenhills. Xavier Batch '81 is headed by my cohort Ysabel Andrew-Ijam. So start preparing, would be nice! In the school's Grand Re-Aid scholarship program.

More on Fitness. I'm so inspired by my younger cousins, Jean-Jean Rufino, Amanda and Chessa Carpio, who just completed the NYC Marathon. Together with Sen. Pia Cayetano, Fernando Isabel, Cristina Pilapil and a few thousand others, they have made us all proud by representing our country in the prestigious marathon.

E-mail me at inspirtessa@inquirer.com.ph.

NATIONAL Artist Arturo Luz

ARCHITECT Joey Yapangco, Inspy Pitapit, Anthony Paponga and Francis Lim

FRENCH Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

ALLIANCE Française de Manille director Olivier Dominger

SHIP trainee Doris Hagonoy-Ho, Philippine Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga and lovely wife Kaye

NETWORKING Card president Ann Young and artist Inspy Pitapit

PROUDLY carrying the Philippine flag Joey Carpio, Kris Mijares, Margo Salazar, Amanda Carpio, Mary Jo Leon and Carissa Chandler

NEW! Former Prince distributor Francis Oliva and Shore Samuel's Carmina Sanchez

OPPOSITE poles Jacques Dupasquier and Elgi Monticola

RUSH girl Lui Perez, Rocio Delgado and host Pinoy NYC Marathon finisher Hana Torres (extreme right) with her family and friends

YOUNG urbanites Zuri Ho-Delgado, Raymond Ruffino and Robbie Delgado

LOVELY relatives Chinit Ruffino, better Benavidez and Pat Tangcuyo

GORGEOUS ladies Lala Lajoom, Angela Hollander, Mari Pascual and Rosa Cruz

SECOND-TIME finisher, lawyer Bing Padilla

AMAZING Sen. Pia Cayetano at the finish line

A triangle takes shape

AYALA Malls executives admire the miniature version of the triangular mall.

From page D1

center of retail, dining and entertainment in Quezon City," says Rowena Bautchas, vice president and deputy group head of the Ayala Malls Group.

One of the anchors of the new mall will be Landmark, which in fact has secured the inauguration to opened its doors and has stressed happy to have its single store at the MCC. It will finally open a second department store and supermarket in the new QC mall.

Princess will have over 350 retail, entertainment and food outlets on four levels. Other features are spacious food court, seven all-digital cinemas and 3,000-slot parking area.

To provide people a more leisurely and efficient shopping experience, Trinoma will be divided into several zones—for kids, teens, sports, home, wellness, entertainment and information technology.

Joel Hernandez, Trinoma general manager, says like other Ayala Malls development projects, the company has put the customers in mind first and tried to "create a super regional shopping center that will fit their needs and be their second home."

THE NEW Quezon City mall will have its gardens at the upper, not ground, level

Hot gadgets on a hot 0% event

If you're a tech savvy and always in search for great gadget finds - from powerful pocket size gizmos to big but hip gizmos then, grab the chance of witnessing them all under one exciting event.

Coming from the two most trusted names in the credit card industry, **Banco de Oro Credit Cards** and **Equitable Card Network**, the most anticipated 0% event dedicated to all digital fanatics – **The Absolutely 0% – The Grand Gadgets Blowout!** Enjoy 0% interest on the hottest and hippest gadgets in the market like mp3 players, cellphones, digital and video cameras, laptop computers and more! Be delighted as great treats like instant freebies when you purchase your favorite gear, double your existing credit limit, a chance of winning exciting prizes or our raffles and jam with live band performances! What's more, installment purchases made during the event will only be billed starting January 2007! Rush now to SM Megamall from November 3 to 16, 2006, The Block, SM North Edsa from November 17 to December 3, 2006 and SM Mall of Asia from November 18 to 20, 2006.

This exciting event is made possible through the support of our major sponsors – VillMan, Canon, Motorola and Lenovo and in part of Speed and CI Magazine. Participating merchants include Accent Micro, Asianic, Astroplus, Avic Bose, Camerahaus, Complink, Electroworld, Memo Express, Octagon, Power Mac, Silicon Valley and TCA. This event is open to all Equitable Card Network cardholders (Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard, Equitable JCB, Equitable American Express) and Banco de Oro Credit Card holders (BDO Shop Now MasterCard, BDO Gold MasterCard, BDO Standard MasterCard, BDO Platinum MasterCard and HOME MasterCard).

This is the 0% affair you surely don't want to miss! An event where you can increase your spending power and at the same time, flash on the latest and coolest gadgets in town! It's a variety of eye-catching gear finds perfect for tech savvies!

For more details and inquiries, Equitable cardholders can call **887-7977** or the domestic toll free number, **1-800-1888-3264** or visit **www.Equitablecard.com**. BDO Credit Card holders can call **631-8000** within Metro Manila or **1-800-10-631-8000**, Domestic Toll-Free.

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Dialing into high fashion

THE LATEST models (including right and below) from the Ascent collection

IF PEOPLE HAVE DESIGNER CLOTHES, designer shoes, designer bags, wots-yer-arses, why not designer phones? That was what Franck Muller, principal designer of new luxury mobile communications brand Vertu had in mind when he took the lead in crafting an entirely new kind of luxury phone. The result of painstaking studies and development is an exceptional handset made of the finest materials, designed from inside out.

Unlike the ordinary cell phone, Vertu doesn't take its cue from the latest technology. Rather it looks to the luxe...for most exquisitely made watches and jewelry and the most exhilarating cars. Each phone is handmade, using materials like gold, platinum, titanium, silver, diamonds, sapphire crystals, ceramics and finest leather.

That doesn't mean, though, that the mobile tech inside gets less primacy. On the contrary. The accurate profile of the phone's loudspeakers, for example, precisely match the sensitivity characteristics of the human ear. The "engine," electronic part of the phone, has a shock-resistant suspension to minimize the damage should the phone be (unthinkably) dropped. Paper-thin flexible circuit boards allow the phone to keep its slim profile.

Vertu comes in three collections, each one designed to match the high-living lifestyle of its owners. Ascent enthusiasts will truly appreciate Vertu signature, which is inspired by the Grand Complication timepieces (for those not in the know, Grand Complications are the epitome of fine watches, exquisitely difficult to produce and quite rare). Signature is as complex but it is, by Vertu's own admission, almost impossible to build...only a handful of people can do it. The keypad, for example, which feels so smooth and luminous first, took eight designers to create (and each of the 10 keys is supported by a ruby bearing).

Those who love fast cars, especially the racy Italian kind, will find their hearts pounding in similar excitement on seeing the Vertu Ascent. Ascent is an elegant combination of rough and elegant—a delicate balance between hard metal and soft leather. Design details evoke images of a sports cars. The speaker ports look like air vents. The hand-stitched leather detail recalls a steering wheel. The battery cover lock resembles a fuel tank cap. Even the screws on the battery cover were modeled on real ones.

The third collection draws inspiration from the jet-setting lifestyle and luxury travel around the world. Called Versu Constellation, these phones are finished in stainless steel or gold, backed with flawless leather. Constellation will be launched on Nov. 14 in Shangri-La Mall. Vertu phones will be exclusively available at Levents at G/F, Glorietta 4, Makati City and 2/F Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City.

DIAMOND-STUDDED Ferti Signature phone

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• Bills payment convenience via Citibank Online (www.citibank.com.ph), 24-hour Citiphone Banking at 8989999 or the ATM.

• Round-the-clock access for banking transactions, withdrawals, funds transfers, bills payments, account balance inquiries, statement requests.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

This is a familiar story of a clash of cultures, of the loss of cultural moorings, of one's identity

The sullen, sullied beauty of Lake S'bu

The sullen, sullied beauty of Lake S'bu

EMERGING panaons ona loom

Text and photos by Patrick S. Lorrega
Contributor

IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO imagine how magical Lake S'bu must have been in the not too distant past when T'boli women, clad in their intricate finery, walked in the rain-clad landscape. Legends and stories abound in Lake S'bu and the landscape, undulating and unashamedly scenic, acquires a dimension that lifts it from the merely picturesque.

Lake S'bu is a town and at the same time the largest of three lakes in the municipality in Southern Cotabato. We arrived at lunch time and promptly made plans for a lakeside bunch of breakfast.

After we thought would be a quiet, leisurely lunch was not to be, as it was the height of the travel season and we had chosen to eat at the most popular resort in the area. A small entrance-fee park in the making, the restaurant also featured a fountain spouting water from the lake into the air and a local version of the Regata classic, young lads scrambling for coins tossed by tourists.

This done, it was a young T'boli diving for coins thrown by the lunch-goers into the murky waters of the lake.

Above: Do kind hearts-singing, we get one

AAQELANG player

WEAVER Subi Nuimo

ONE OF Lake S'bu's seven falls

T'BOLI bamboo house with an extension

LAKE S'bu sunset

The most traditional weavers still create patterns revealed to them in dreams by Fu Dalu, the spirit of the abaca.

"I am a traditional person," Subi Nalus, one of the weavers, said in our guide. By that she meant that she still believed in the old ways and had not abandoned the art that she has been practicing since she was small. Subi lives in a raised hut by herself and believes that without the guidance and inspiration of the abaca spirit, her works will never be finished.

T'nalak-weaving is done when the weather is cool, especially at night, or when it rains, as the threads about fibers easily snap in hot weather. It is also better to do it within a humid hut, as the temperature within a bamboo structure remains cool despite the hell sun outside.

Another weaver of note, Sah Mun, over 50, learned the art of weaving from her mother. She has moved into a new house in the city of Lemlem, where, according to our guide, the T'boli would never pass ago when there were still a lot of big trees in the area to serve the canvas they called sawag.

Sah Mun's house is still of bamboo, but of a construction closer to that found in the lowland areas of the country. The host is not an artist, as was customary, and the floor is of packed mud.

Subi Nalus still weaves assiduously. On the day we visited, he had started work on a "bubbles" design. She says she now belongs in the One Way church but surprisingly continues to believe in the spirit who guides her weaving.

Complex beliefs

A complex set of beliefs surrounds the weaving of t'nalak, and our wonders how long the T'boli will continue to weave given the aggressiveness of evangelical groups in their area.

The struggles of the T'boli in their ancestral land have been played out on a larger scale in the rest of the Philippines. It is a familiar story of a clash of cultures, of the loss of cultural moorings, of one's identity. It is also a story of economic elaboration. And it is a continuing struggle.

It is easy to swallow in nostalgia in Lake S'bu. The place is special, beautiful still. One remnant afternoon, we sat on the edge of a promontory overlooking the three lakes...an arrow in the distance—bearing to a kapalong player awakens us to Lake S'bu with an impromptu serenade.

For at least a moment, everything felt right. And the world stood still.

FISH cages, Lake Sebu

introduction to the area. Our guide, a cultural worker enlisted by the provincial tourism office, introduced herself and was present the stories of the T'boli and welcome tooling from ventured with ours.

The lake, its islands and the surrounding countryside all figure prominently in the T'boli epic "Tud Fulul." Obviously, the epic had taken shape in some primeval past, way before the advent of the colgate pens.

The state of the natural environment mirrors the struggles of the T'boli. Of the three mountain lakes in the basin, only one, Lahit, has been cleared of fish pens. The other two, Lake S'bu and Lake Seloton, are literally blanketed with them.

Vicente Bandala, an Ilonggo whose family emigrated to Lake S'bu in the 1960s, recalled hiking from the neighboring town of Banga to Lake Seloton, as the road that now connects Lake S'bu to the lowland towns had yet to be built. Where he was a young boy, he said, the temperature was cooler, and wild boars, pursued by hunters, would swim across the lake to make their escape.

Now Lake Seloton, which used to measure 71 hectares in area, has shrunk drastically to 50, a victim of siltation, a direct result of the clearing of the surrounding forests. According to T'boli legend, Lake Seloton was once the deepest of the three lakes. A giant is said to have washed into each of the three lakes. In Lahit, the water reached only up to Bandala's knees, but in Seloton, it reached all the way up to his chest.

Fitting backdrop

In Lake S'bu, the scenic beauty of the landscape provides a fitting backdrop to the traditional arts and crafts that have managed to survive. There are still a number of master brass-casters and an even bigger number of weavers of the t'nalak cloth, the most well-known of whom is the national artist Lang Dulay.

CANOES on Lake Seloton

NEW SUMMER CAPITAL
Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano (third from the left) attended the recent Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) at Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. Posing with Vice Mayor Alicia Rosa of Mariveles, Bataan, Audrey T. Zubiri, wife of Bukidnon Third District Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri; DOT Region X director Caroline E. Chan III; chair and Philippine Tourism Operators Association president Renato E. Centeno; and Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jacapo Jr. Bataan proposes to be the new summer capital of the Philippines with the tagline "Cool Weather, Warm People." This year's PTM focused on Health and Wellness Tourism.

AIRLINE FLIES NEW COLORS
Korean national carrier Asiana Airlines' fleet sports a new look to reflect the integrated brand image of its parent company and its businesses. Korean Asiana Group celebrates its 50th year by unveiling Asiana's new colors on a Boeing B777 aircraft. The airline also has a new corporate logo. Asiana has 34 flights out of Manila. Clark and Cebu. Call 8926480.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Cabin amenities

Singapore Airlines has launched its latest suite of cabin products expected to set the new in-country benchmark for premium air travel.

The refined products and services include new Singapore Airlines First, Business and Economy Class seats, the next-generation KrisWorld in-flight entertainment system, and an enhanced exercise delivery.

The US$260 million product and service enhancement program marks the completion of an extensive four-year project that will coincide with the addition into the carrier's fleet of the Boeing 777-300ER (extended range) and the Airbus A380.

The seat may be a standout for lounging, reading and entertainment. At night, it converts into a full-size flat bed.

The new Business Class cabin also features a new full-length sliding door that provides more privacy and a larger 18.9-inch monitor to access the KrisWorld in-flight entertainment system.

Lion City beyond words

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has launched a new campaign approach, Beyond Words. The second phase of the Uniquely Singapore brand, it goes beyond promoting the destination and tries to bring out the depths of the Singapore experience.

It will attempt to showcase Singapore as a destination where serious experiences are the norm.

The STB is launching the Beyond Words ad campaign, a suite of eight new print advertisements and two television commercials. The suite highlights the very best sights of Singapore, such as the Merlion, Orchard Road, and Esplanade, as well as more personal images of Kampong Glam and the kuchacharing.

Sales blitz in US

Philtown Properties Inc. went recently into several towns near where, holding seminars in Hawaii, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Philtown executives went to Hawaii to join the celebration by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Nafaa) of the centennial of Filipino immigrants.

The group updated Nafil owners about their property and called on prospective buyers.

One of Philtown's latest projects is One Bonifacio Place, a 40-storey condominium in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. It will be completed in April and Philtown will soon launch its second project, Wil Tell Residences, overlooking De La Salle University.

Third in a row

Etihad Airways was named the world's leading new airline for the third year in a row at the prestigious World Travel Awards (WTA). It also was honored for the world's leading Tier-four and for its Pearl Class, introduced in the Philippines on April. The tab: four, one-way and round-trip business class seats to Abu Dhabi, Etihad's hub. Airways facility.

The 13th annual WTA was held in the Caribbean's Turks and Caicos Islands. Etihad Airways flies to Manila four times a week: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday). Flight EY421 departs Abu Dhabi at 0155 and arrives in Manila at 1405.

Nonstop flights

The airways recently announced direct flights to two destinations in South Africa and India, two of the world's fast-rising economies.

As part of "Asia's long-haul business strategy," following the recent opening of nonstop flights to New York, Moscow and Los Angeles, its new 11-hour flight to Johannesburg (Johannesburg). The flights and Saturdays, using a B777-200ER aircraft capable of accommodating a total of 282 seats in Royal Silk and Economy Classes.

Flights from Bangkok to Johannesburg are every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, utilizing an Airbus A330-300 aircraft, and flights to Dubai are operated on a six-to-Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, on a 747-400 aircraft.

For more information on these new destinations, call your travel agent or Thai at (MAKATI) 633-8310/34, (Manila) 632-6368 to 76, (Cebu) 302-2929/65, or log on to www.thaiairways.com.

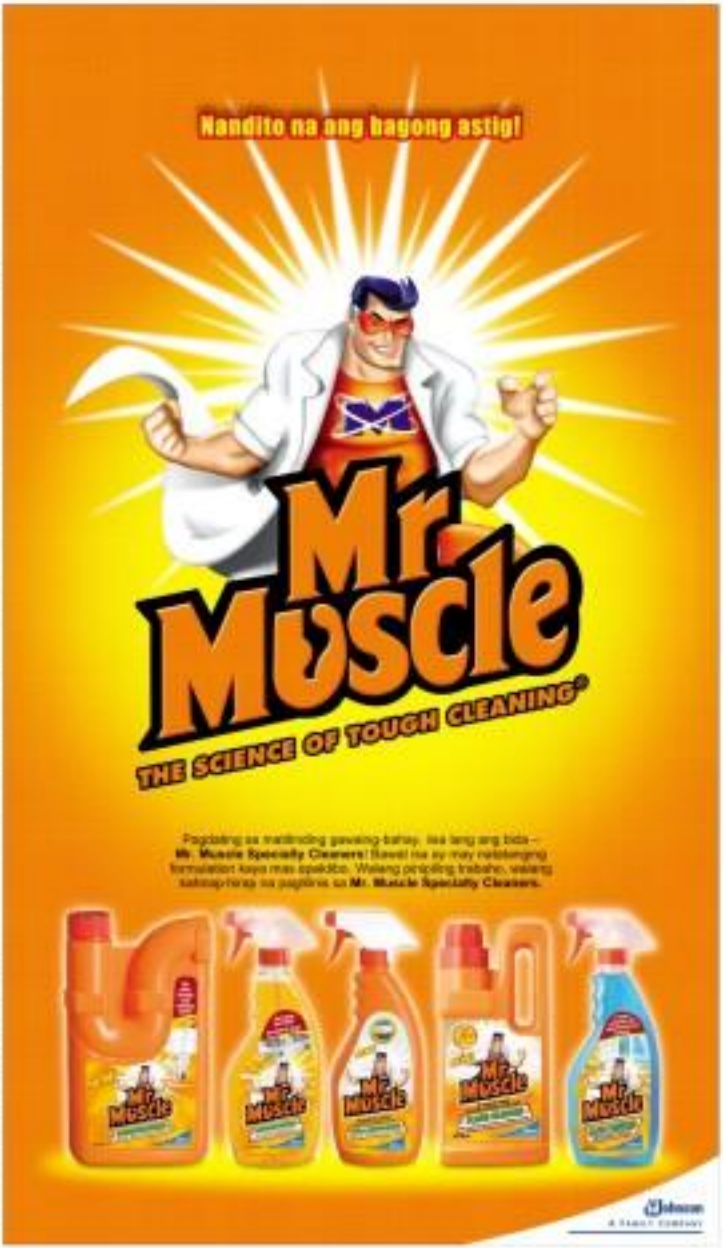
Golf tourney in Boracay

The Fairways & Bluewater Resort's Open Invitational golf tournament begins this month and ends today. Nine months ago, the competition was staged at the resort's 18-hole, par-72 championship golf course. The competition at Fairways & Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Clubhouse, Yapak, Boracay.

Entrants like The New Members and Low Yabbo, will perform at the close of the event. The event kicked off with the launch of The Keys to Boracay. The Multiple Golf Academy and Driving Range, slated for horse riding, and a chapel underneath a natural rock formation. Fairways is also constructing the Multiple Golf Hotel phases 2 and 3, the 270-room Bulalacao Golf Villas, and Villas on the Walk. Call 633 1393.

SPECIAL TREAT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

The Bellevue Hotel has a special treat for local residents to let them relax in elegant surroundings at an affordable price. For only P3,500++ per night, they can get deluxe room accommodation with buffet breakfast for two. Check-in is Friday-Sunday. Other perks include 10 percent discount on dermatological services at any Belo Medical Clinic, free use of swimming pool and gym facilities at The Bellevue Spa Club, complimentary shuttle service to nearby malls and business districts, welcome drink at 26/10 Entertainment Bar, welcome fruit plate, two bottles of mineral water replenished daily, and local newspaper. Call 771 8888.



Wellness tour for 'seniors'

INSCRIBE YOURS' BEAUTY AND Wellness Tour on Nov. 25 offers a wellness session, spa treatment, natural soaps and body-care products, gourmet meal of fresh salad, pasta and herbal tea, and some wonderful places to visit.

Based from the wellness session to be conducted by a health expert who will teach Oriental healing, ancient therapies and Ayurvedic lessons. Also, there time on developing good mindsets, stress fitness, quick stress busters, anti-aging food, healing lines and aromatherapy.

The itinerary of this unique "journey for the body, mind and spirit" includes St. Scholastica's Women and Ecology Wellness Farm, Big Kharis Honeybee Farm, Nurtures Tropical Spa and Sonya's Garden, all in the upland Tagaytay-Mendez area of Cavite.

The tour is specially recommended for senior citizens. Call 5756579 and 8400012.

ELENA Fernando, Cojuangco and UP College of Fine Arts' Rodrigues

PITOT Marivee and Mabi Cojuangco with some of the scholars. Recipients of Marivee's scholarships are UP College of Medicine—Agape Baldemar, Kathryn Ty, Anthony Co, Zaida Antonilla, Paul Adrian Pinlac, Paolo Victor Medina, Jazel Manarang; and UP College of Fine Arts—Edgardo Barias, Marjorie Ann Rodriguez, Rodilyn Acojedo, Marian Rose Bonzo and Mel Jason Encarnacion

BOGITA Lucero, Maerlin Concepcion, Cojuangco, Marvy Tuason and Cheng Monteverde

Future artists and doctors awarded

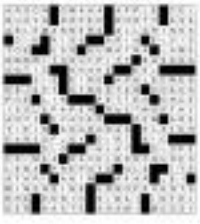
ESTABLISHED 11 YEARS AGO, THE J. Moreno Scholarships for the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and College of Medicine students is chaired by Imelda O. Cojuangco.

J. Moreno is, of course, the designer Wow Moreno, who is a graduate of the UP School of Fine Arts himself. When Cojuangco took over the scholarship several years ago, common friends joined in the project. The scholarship aims to support deserving students in their schooling.

The scholarship's awarding ceremonies for the first semester this year was held last September and the second semester's awarding will be in February.

The board of trustees and supporters include Celia B. Laurel, Araceli Dans, Lorito Asuncion Kalaw (deceased), Elena Fernando, Stella M. Tiaoqui, Beatriz Lucero, Crispy Laurel, Edna Crugen, Marcy Fundon, Wow Moreno, Sandie Feliciano, Carol Garcia, Fe Ma. Arguzo, Candelaria Bernardo, Nelly Gonzalez, Nena Villanueva, Thelma Ilas Juan, Marsha Concepcion, Mariano Ledesma, Cheong Rafael, Yayang Dungan, Cheng Monteverde, Mabel Abaya, Cindy Lopez, Letty Baes, Joana Olivares, Cristina Prince Kiefer, Irene Magsaysay, Eva Apacl, Ingrid Santamaria, Jawad Jose Reyes, Toni Leviste, Fortune Abcarian, Nes Jardin, Sr. Fes and Vic Feliciano, Gerry Contreras, Johnny Ridder, Dr. Greg Mejia, Dr. Dexter Bernal, Dr. Edgar Lim, Fr. Max Reyes, dean of UP Fine Arts Rebeca de Jesus, Dr. Andrew Demerall, dean of UP Medicine.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



115 sellers in Xmas bazaar

THE SUNNY CLUB OF MAKATI PEL holds the 19th "A Christmas Saviour Like No Other" at the Hotel Inter-Continental grand ballroom 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 26.

It will showcase goods from 115 concessionaires like Christmas decors, leather products, novelty items, home accessories, religious pieces, etc.

Proceeds from the bazaar will fund charitable community projects.

The bazaar is organized by the Club's Notary Aces (Noteladies' wives), headed by Chit Marty, wife of incumbent president Conrad Marty, and overall chair.

Others involved in the bazaar are concessionaire committee, Cherry Claverol, Marilou Alejandro and Mercedes Dionisio; food gourmet, Lil Dominguez; Miss Sisterhood, and Melissa Jaggers; White Elephant, Mimi Valera and Calling Wrong; publicity committee, Gloria S. Garcia and Sue Ann Perkins; raffle and prizes, Jojo Bonesano and Milbert Caoile; advanced ticket sales, Pepito Benjamin; ticket day sales, Tesha Garcia and Jerry Roque; finance, Fe Liberia and Lu Campos; marshals, Tess Bonet, Pete Cuasi and Nelsonia Garcia; entertainment, Janet Eslante and Tess Bienvenu; sponsorships, Conrad Marty; physical arrangements, Terry Tandoyong and Lilibeth Ambrosa. Call 8 552000 to 10.

TESHA Garcia, Mimi Valera, Lu Limjoco, Melanie Laggui, Marilou Alejandro, Terry Tandoyong, Bess Mendonoza and Lilibeth Ambrosa. Seated: Pete Manzano, Chit Marty and Gloria S. Garcia

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AVON

Sunday LIFESTYLE

MEDITATION
FREE SEMINAR

THE NUTCRACKER, The Rat King and The Doll with the children in Act I. (Left) The Children's Pas de trois

LISA Macuja-Elizalde and Jerome Ronje as Sugarplum Fairy and Prince

'Tis the season for sugar plum fairies and dancing snowflakes

THE FAMILIAR STRAINS OF Tchaikovsky are reverberating through Alice Thomas's east hall. The Sugar Plum Fairy is prancing about with giant mice and a handsome prince. These only mean one thing: rehearsals for "The Nutcracker" are on and Christmas is just around the corner.

Ballet Manila brings it's annual showing of "The Nutcracker"—a two-act ballet about a little girl named Masha, whose preoccupied night on Christmas Eve leads her to a wonderful land where giant dolls and a Nutcracker Prince come to life. The Nutcracker is a family must-see during this blessed season.

This year's production, under artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and artistic associate Orlan Ramos, promises to be bigger and better, with a cast of more than a hundred dancers that include very young students from The Ballet Manila School.

Performances of this Christmas treat are on Dec. 1-3 and Dec. 8-10 at Alice Thomey Star City, CCP Complex, on Roxas Boulevard. Call 4988202, 4945886 and 5253967.

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Have a Ball at Shopwise this CHRISTMAS!
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Can't end a casual affair

DEAR EMILY,

How do you end a relationship that has been wrong from the very beginning? I am 33 years old, single and went on rebound a boyfriend for two years, until I ended up sleeping with a man I met through other friends.

He's married with four children. I only gave in to him for the sex and the need to be loved. I know now it's been a mistake.

When he left for the Middle East a few months ago, I was curious and anxious; would Rashi (not real name) be ready to end over-three years of separation. Never did it occur to me that I'd be offered a job in the same country where he was.

He is assigned in a place where he is not allowed to leave their camp anytime he would. Rashi (not real name) is ready to file and cross when I get here and he's planning to do this on a regular basis.

I told him I could no longer handle this kind of relationship because I feel guilty already. But, much to I would like to enjoy my life here—my new found freedom, both financial and physical.

He has developed such a feeling of insecurity and self-pity and this has prevented me from telling him straight that I don't have any feelings for him anymore.

He constantly urges me to be physic because he is so persistent. He only hears what he wants to hear. He said that it only let me go when I'd found a single man ready to marry me.

How do I get out of this mess and be assured that he will not end up pitying himself?

DESPERATE GIRL

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

It just so happened that you found such other again in an other place, effort at a not-too-comfortable distance.

You finally realized the emptiness of your affair and went out. Just tell him! The decent, humane between two people is a straight line—reminders your proximity?

Why even worry about his pity party? Isn't he married with kids? Has he even given a matter to that he'll leave them for you? And why should he lay down the decree that requires you to wait, a single, eligible man before he stops pursuing you?

Such maturity is sickening! Did he tell you he must walk you down the aisle to wed?

You're single, financially independent and free to do whatever your heart desires, anything and everything!

Move allow one freckle to distract you from what you want to do with yourself or to think and you emotionally.

You had fun while it lasted. But that was yesterday. It's finished. Done. Wash him off your life and don't consider this a one day for you.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@philstar.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Lifestyle at 185 Marginal Rd., Bonifacio Ave., Makati City, Philippines 1200. Fax: 896-2161.

Lighting candles of hope

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Dorong

WE ARE ONLY STEWARDS and guardians of what we have," Doña Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal-Collantes told Fr. Mario Jose G. Ladra. She asked him to be the branch director of the Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal Foundation (CCMF).

The statement captures the greatness of a generous heart. Doña Chito is the main benefactress of the foundation. Her kindness has inspired others to join the effort to help the underprivileged.

Adrian Antique arose from Mr. and Mr. Michael Escalas, architect and Mr. Nestor Hidalgo, Jr., and Mr. Salvador de Jesus, DeLaSalle Lipa, and many others.

With their support, CCMF-Batangas is implementing a package of welfare services, livelihood opportunities for family heads, full scholarships and educational assistance to deserving students, and community development projects in the recipients' communities.

The "Total Family Approach Strategy" unveiled by Ladra was also adopted by architect of head Eduardo T. Manalo, executive of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The foundation holds office at Inocencio Street, de Manila Parish, Pleasant Hill Subdivision, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

Fr. Ladra spearheads the mission to empower the lost, the lax, and the least of our brethren by giving them wings on their feet so they can face the realities of life with love and dignity. Surely, one Creator is glorified by the goodness happening before Him.

For more than two years, countless people have been blessed; families have learned to help themselves and one another.

CCMF also has branches in Nueva and the third province, among others.

The Batangas branch, said Fr. Ladra and the people of CCMF-Batangas sharing her dream, "there is no better exercise than the heart than reaching down and uplifting people" (John Andrew Holmes).

The foundation believes everything it does must be done for the greater glory of God—the Supreme Architect.

Adrian and CCMF-Batangas was coming out with all resources and Christmas cards in all panel made by the scholars themselves. Proceeds will be used for their continuing education. A box of cards costs P500. The address, call 09097258521, 09405134790, 09284809800 or 043.

Miracles

The late Bishop Alexis Rotello, successor of St. Ascension Bowles, has manifested miraculous intercessions for people who pray to him. Bishop Portillo's cause for beatification is under study by the Congregation of the Causes of Saints in the Vatican.

Cabildo Cabinet, an Opus Dei cooperator, executed answers to his prayers when her son, Mr. Rosalind was recently rushed to the hospital.

Rosalind was diagnosed with thrombosis found 11 years ago at the Philippine General Hospital. The disease weakens the involuntary muscles. When the tract attacks, her pulse would close and she couldn't swallow once her arms and get a good grip. She took acetaminophen drugs to avoid attacks, refusing to undergo any medical treatment.

According to Cecilio, her sister was rushed to the hospital in Lubao, Pampanga, then transferred to the provincial hospital in San Fernando.

Cecilio prayed to Bishop Alfonso. Mystified by the sudden turn, he began to quiz Rosalind's kin. Cecilio narrates testimony of other survivors that happened to her the Thing.

Parent 1: A cousin suddenly thought of checking if the telephone number of a distant relative to deceased was still working. She just entered Fr. Rotello in a family gathering. He got the call and knew what the doctor was.

He was assigned at the Mt. Carmel Hospital, 1, five minutes drive from the provincial hospital. The family also got the money to pay the bill in the provincial hospital. She stabilized in the deposit at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

Parent 2: Rosalind was transferred to the Mount Carmel Hospital in San Fernando and people kept donating. Best of all, the sick woman was able to receive the ministering of the sick after attendants to see her Christ.

In August, Rosalind peacefully left. All throughout the preparation for the wake and funeral, money came to pay for the expenses.

Cano, Cecilio's brother, was able to raise P75,000 for the hospital for the next bypass.

Parent 3: The host of Cecilio's sister refused to be paid back for the money they borrowed so the P30,000 went to Doña. Rosalind's son, who needed it to put for his apprenticeship in a ship.

Relatives in the United States sent money for the other expenses. Best of all, according to Cecilio, she gained a big family, which she always wanted. Her sister's daughter said her two boys.

Two tribunals

The Congregation for the Causes of the Saints has opened two tribunals to study the life of Don Alvaro del Portillo in the Diocese of Rome and the other in the Prelature of Opus Dei. Visit www.opusdei.us/art.php?p=12864.

For prayer cards, write to Mrs.'s Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati.

Journey to wellness

The second Newsletter Institute of Transhypnosis (IAE 20004 will be held at the Mandaluyong of the Seventh-day Adventist Building Bohlokom 4 p.m., Nov. 19, and 8 a.m., Nov. 25.

The one-week seminar has five sessions. Secretary counsel Wholeness." It is aimed at empowering the needs and concerns of former users from all religious formations formers and employees.

E-mail: Jhun Hidalgo Ismael, OIR, PhD co-ordinator, at donnarmendoza@yahoo.com; text 0917-5366000 and 0917-5369666; or fax 8961212 2899.

Lady of La Leche

His years ago when a fashion uncle of Bishop Teresio Gonzalez bequeathed to her an antique image of Nuestra Señora de la Leche y Buen Parto, the devotion to Our Lady under that title spread to the Philippines.

The feast day was celebrated at the Huerano Dona Chapel on Dec. 11. Pregnant women each hour who wanted to conceive stayed with the Mass.

Bishop's murder, Ramon Tuason, seeks gave all of us a gift when he gave to the cause the responsibility to spread the devotion. Many heaven-sent answers have helped.

Origin

The image of Blessed Virgin Mary breastfeeding the infant Jesus dates back to the 14th century in Madrid, Spain, hence her title Nuestra Señora de la Leche y Buen Parto (Our Lady of the Milk and Happy Delivery).

In 1598, the famous Spanish sister was brought to the shores of a man whose youngest son with was dying and entrusted to his protection. The husband yearned deeply to the image to save his wife and newborn child.

The Lady of La Leche heard his urgent prayer and granted his wife a safe delivery. Thereafter, the couple spread the sweet devotion to Our Lady to other families.

King Philip II, who was the ruler during the time, became aware of the Lady's intercession and he personally undertook the building of a shrine to honor Mary's motherhood. The devotion spread widely through out Europe.

Mount Sinai climb

Adam's Travel includes a climb to Mount Sinai this spring in trip to the Holy Land Nov. 17-26. Mount Sinai was where Moses received the 10 Commandments from God. The trip includes Egypt and Turkey. Call 525-3636/98.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — TEE LEAVES

ACROSS

1 Fleeting beauty
6 Nicholson's original role
11 Cable network
15 Ornamental spoon
19 Exalted rival
20 Lowered
21 Like a bad conversation
22 What — — for
23 Like a good episode of Masterpiece?
25 Mythical hunter
26 Ventilate
27 Musical instrument
28 Cleveland suburb
29 Cut on a chicken
30 Unfamiliar
31 "Round Dog" singer
32 Tell's weapon
34 Be indignant
35 Fabricated
37 Week-to-week, without saving for the future?
41 Like a good sandwich
42 Cigarette papers
43 Bird's beak
44 Hop, e.g.
47 What you have when you're hearing things
48 — Chapman of the NBA
49 Hall of Fame manager
50 Pitcher Hershiser
51 Tiny bite
52 Tell-all book
53 Fuel for the fire
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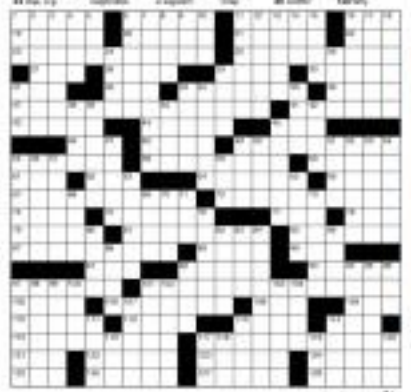


answer on page F4

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and grave designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, P.O. Box 12337 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and on a first-come, first-served basis.

BARRON-MONTEMAYOR

Princess Alyssa Barron and Alexa Montemayor will exchange vows on Dec. 9 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Reception will be held at Swiss Room. Flowers and wedding coordination is by Normandy Blooms Unlimited.

MEPOMUCENO-ESTORES

Pearla B. Estores, daughter of Francisco and Elsa Estores, will exchange marriage vows with Patrick G. Mepomuceno, son of Dominador and Ermelinda Mepomuceno, on Dec. 2, 9 a.m., at the Mary the Queen Parish Church in Greenhills, San Juan. Reception will be at Dusit Manila, Ayala Boulevard, San Juan.

MENORCA-LIPA

Ray Michael M. Menorca, son of Bernie and Ma. Cristina Menorca, will wed Ana Dimitrika A. Lipa, daughter of engineer Wilfredo and Maria Lipa, on Dec. 16, at Parish of St. James the Great (Alabang). Reception will follow at The Nine Country Club.

GUTIERREZ-MARTIN

Mindanao Gutierrez, son of Emelle and Juliets Gutierrez, will exchange vows with Liezl Martin, daughter of Salvador and Esperanza Martin, on Dec. 9 at the Christ the King Parish. Reconciliation ceremonies, Quezon City. Reception will follow at the Parish Social Hall.

ISIP-BACSAL NUPTIALS

A proposal on bended knees

RICA BACSAL, A SOCIOLOGY GRADUATE of the University of London's London School of Economics, had just arrived from visiting her elder sister in Singapore when she was introduced by a cousin to Ryan Isip, a University of Asia and the Pacific graduate, now an account director for CD Richard Ellis.

Dating involved such different people at the time, the meeting was unremarkable.

It was much later when their paths crossed again and when they were both free, that the courtship began.

Ryan followed Rica when she went on vacation in the United States and got to meet her relatives. Then he knew she was the girl for him.

Upon his return, he talked to his mother, the lovely Mila Lim, and told her of his plans. Their busy schedules had them meeting often at the Makati Shangri-La lounge.

During one such meeting, Rica was in for a great surprise. The darkened lounge was suddenly brightly lit, as Ryan had all the lights turned on. Then he knelt in front of her and asked her to marry him.

She was teary-eyed, overcome with joy, as she accepted.

"Tiny triple-whirl marriage is successful as both were involved with other people"

RYAN and Rica tie the knot

International guest list

Their wedding was a day to remember. Relatives of both Ryan and Rica came from Europe and the United States, all 60 of them, to witness the union. It was a family reunion of sorts.

The Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park was filled with beautiful flowers by Rey Antonicio. Rica glowed in a stunning gown by Hyein Villoria-Seno. The world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers performed accompanied by the Makati Chamber Orchestra, with Cris Soliquia on the violin. The solemn atmosphere was set.

Her parents, Roberto N. Bacsal and Dr. Fe Trotic, were overjoyed as the church door opened to reveal the radiant bride. They accompanied her down the aisle to the sweet of "Ending Hits" by Ryan Cayabyab, rendered by Jonathan Manzo.

The groom beamed as he marched alongside his mother, Milagros Navicidad Lim.

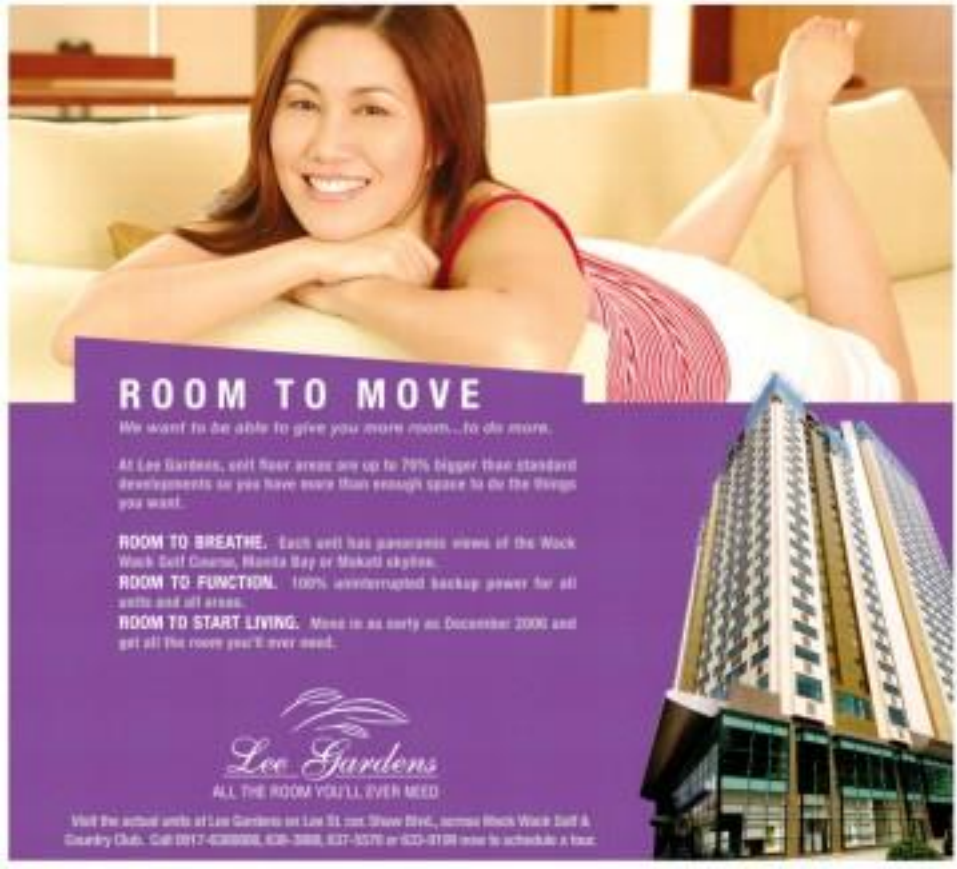
Their principal sponsors, close family friends and relatives, included Senate President Franklin Drilon and honorary consul Stella Ahlers, Rep. Amulfo Fuentebella and Nasty Pagsanjan, Frazier Tremblay and Myrna Bocobo, Cesar Santos and Dr. Lourdes Trinits, PAL president Jaime Bautista and Dr. Noemia Rodriguez, Wilson Young and Dr. Elena Manzanero, lawyer Leonard de Dios and Leonabelle Villaluz, Roberto Ignacio and Lourdes Tan, Nicanor Bacsal and Marilou Cobus, Donald McDowell and Florencita Khoo.

The Peninsula Manila Hotel was made more elegant with flowers by regal Penarroyas of Tropical Blooms. The delicious cake was by Alex Franco.

After dinner, dancing started and everyone cramped in the dance floor lasting till way past midnight.

Ryan and Rica, surrounded by family, relatives and friends, were undoubtedly the happiest couple in the party where they both exuded a glow, seen only in people who are truly in love.

It was truly a beautiful and memorable wedding to remember.



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a. Full name (as it appears on the card)
b. First 6 digits of the account number
c. Last 4 digits of the account number
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f. Time of transaction (24-hour format)

Ex. VISA Minnie Sa, 400000, 1234, 1000.25, 111206, 1808

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Promo period: November 12, 2006 - January 30, 2007

VISA
All it takes.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER G!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

The last inhabitant of the planet

Senior citizens are not yet used to having their furniture called 'antique' or their clothes 'vintage' or 'revival'

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Rituals of togetherness

Beauty staple

Missing things

Halfway to the office, mom realizes that she forgot to give Anne's allowance.

Does she really have to turn back now?

Smart Tayo

Carla's been in line for an hour at the grocery.
At the cashier, she realizes she's short on cash.

How will she solve this?

SMART TAYO

THE 1952 Ateneo first-year high-school class, section 1-G, under Fr. Enrique Vicentino, SJ, which graduated in 1956. Look for Joel Mo. Diaz in the front row. The batch also produced several cabinet secretaries and undersecretaries.

Coming of age in the '50s

The Ateneo High School Class of '56 included the best known anti-government personality

By Ed Yuson
Cover feature

TO BORROW FROM DICKENS, IT WAS the best of times... and it was the best of times. The '50s seemed to be the start of a "golden age" for our country, especially for us who were teenagers then.

The Philippines was way ahead of the Asian pack and was poised to become the region's first open economy. Our major exports were agricultural products—our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and certainly not teachers turned domestic helpers or doctors turned nurses.

"Inflation" was unheard of and the exchange rate was P2 to US$1. We could take a jeepney or a bus for 10 centavos; a coke boy a bottle of Coke; ride for 30 centavos; or settle for a bottle of Cosmos Manggarilla, today's Sarsi, for only five centavos.

For entertainment, we could see a first-run movie for P1.20, or two second-run movies for P0.60.

Our forests were very lush and the supply of lumber seemed inexhaustible. Many houses, even those of the rich, were made of wood. The Pasig River was clear in many places and still had a lot of fish. "Air pollution" was unknown and a trip to Baguio, with its fresh, pine-scented air, was a treat to look forward to.

The widespread problem of drug addiction was still years away. Cigarette smoking was the "vice" and, happily, it was not related to criminal or violent behavior.

So, our worst fears of daily kidnapping for ransom and car theft would become lucrative businesses.

Graft and corruption in government was the exception, not the rule. Politicians and government officials were generally looked up to or respected.

While today we accept newsbreaks and local news stories as a fact of life, in the '50s, this total lack of respect for human life was seemingly alien.

The conservative influence of the Church, especially in Catholic education and student life, was pervasive in the '50s. Pius XII was Pope, and the liberal ideas of Vatican II under Pope John XXIII in the '60s were still several years away.

Mass was said exclusively in Latin, and we, the students, knew the responses word for word. In church, women had to wear veils, sleeveless dresses, short skirts, slacks, jeans and shorts were taboo.

Primitive

Compared to today's pouch, our generation was primitive in technology.

We did our homework on long-hand and most formal reports on an Underwood or Remington manual typewriter that today's young people have never heard of. Those days, students work on a PC or a laptop. Mistakes are deleted instantly; font types and sizes, colors and graphics changed with one click.

We did our research in the library, going through stacks of books. Today, students surf the Internet for every kind of information.

To enjoy our favorite tunes, we listened to the radio or played one of our breakable, single-song 78-rpm (revolution per minute) vinyl records on a turntable. There were no compact discs or iPods that could store and play up to 15,000 songs.

We were quite happy turning prayer devices and sending grammatically correct classnotes to friends because there were no cell phones for instant calls or text messages.

But our generation did develop virtues and qualities lacking in today's advanced technology does not promote. We learned patience, perseverance, love of books and reading, the thrill of anticipation (versus instant gratification), imagination and representation.

Last and not least, we could speak and write good, articulate English.

HS Class '56

Most of us finished grade school (up to 1952) in Padre Faura in Ermita, holding classes in assorted huts and in the high-ceilinged rooms of the partly destroyed concrete buildings of the old Ateneo.

After grade school, we moved to the brand new buildings of the high school in Loyola Heights that overlooked Mo Ikita Valley. This was a major distinction. The new color was for

COMING U

MEMBERS of the 1956 class who Golden Boys of 2006 in a recent get-together at the Ateneo High School Chapel

THE US CONNECTION. The US-based classmates in their own mini-reunion in Las Vegas on February 2006

Get an early Christmas gift

Coming of age in the '50s

To page G2

11:45 p.m. in Manila,
Joey's mom calls
from Bicol.
It's an emergency.
She needs money
right now.

Can he come to
the rescue?

SMART TAYO

SANDERS' private paradise

FIVE violet nymphaea makes a handsome, floating foliage.

TOP: hibiscus, orange gazanias, pink lisianna as the showflowers; right: nymphaea stellata, Nymphaea mexicana lily has a lovely sweet fragrance.

Garden queen

Text by Anne B. Jardeleza
Photos by Chino Nicolo

SHE BELONGS TO THE VERdant foliage and flourishing blooms of the wild. It is the discovery of a budding plant variety in some distant forest that sends her adrenaline flying to the roof. When abroad, she collects seeds from the grounds of public parks instead of going on a shopping spree.

With childlike innocence, she speaks with animated abandon about her garden—where her plants came from, how they got here, do they thrive under the sun, rain they stand naked, etc.—key there for years.

Meralco Bar owner Shirley B. Sanders and prominent personalities in the country and royalty abroad recognize the name.

She is, after all, the Sanders who designed the royal gardens of Dubai and Brunei, as well as world-famous restaurants of France and Italy, for then First Lady Imelda Marcos, former President Fidel Ramos, actress Carmelita Ramos-Estrada, former tennis icons Legarda, former Presidents Joseph Estrada, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, the Shangri-La Hotel in Cebu, and so much more.

Gaining prominence in a field with no formal schooling, however, has been a hard, at times climb.

As a child, Sanders grew up with a green thumb for a mother, and somehow, she said, the passion rubbed off on her (the mother had the best garden in town, she said, where the hibiscus and bougainvillea blossomed all year long, much to the amazement of the neighbors. The secret?

"My mother relieved us, her children, to use the ashes instead of the toilet. Come morning, she would collect the ashes, mix one cup with 10 parts of water, and feed that to the hibiscus and bougainvillaea," Sanders said.

In the late '70s, way into her sophomore year in medical courses, Sanders decided she wanted to be in the garden business and quit school. Her then-ought father, who graduated her as a child to become a doctor, didn't speak to her for a full year.

Sanders heeded her calling, though, and devoured books upon books on plants, gardening, flowers, to better pursue her dreams, and built her company, Gardens by Sanders Inc. (tel. 8930804, 7283271).

Sanders begged her wealthy clientele to allow her to do their gardens—and they did. When she came up with a decent number of clients, she knocked on people's doors with her portfolio in hand, selling them visions of lilies and lianas right in their yard. Because she knew what she was saying, many would be duped into their chances on her.

Starting off with a predominant few of P5,000, Sanders earned her first million bucks before hitting her 30s. From humble beginnings

SHIRLEY Sanders has 25 years of horticulture experience behind her.

A SERENE picture of lush

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, November 12, 2006
Final 6 na!
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Bill payments made easy

DEVELOPER AND PHOTOGRAPHER NESTOR Gutierrez, fashion designer Kevin Custodio and legendary hotelier Percy Sequeira can only dare society obligations through Metrobank "billsXpay."

Gutierrez has a tight business schedule as both developer and photographer so for Bank billsXpay became a must.

"Dressed to architecture code," he said. "No need to wait for checks to clear. A credit card just makes it all easier. And at the end of the month, paying for all those expenses is a breeze."

His statement reflects all the bills that were automatically paid through my credit card." Custodio added. "It's safe, fast and effective. Aside from not showing up at the bank to pay bills. And the best part is, I can do it on my time, any time, even on the road!"

Katrina Goulbourn-Arias has earned a name for her beautiful pieces for Silk Cocoon, On a typical day, she shuttles between the office, the factory and the boutique.

Goulbourn-Arias defines personal and family time after work.

"It is necessary with today's busy lifestyle to make services convenient and quick," she said. So the quest for Metrobank's billsXpay.

She said the service relieves her of "additional stress."

After several years in the hot place bowling has ever had to be wild, Sequeira now has stayed grounded. He attributed his success to taking the sport seriously and keeping his attitude in check.

"Nobody is born a champion," he said. "Lots of hard work is required as well as patience. It's the same for business. Never is easy."

Sequeira-Lee, who is training with the Philippine team for the Asian Games in December, juggles his time between family, sport and business.

For him, an automatic payment system like Metrobank's billsXpay works like a dream.

"It's the perfect manner to a busy lifestyle especially for me since I travel often to competitions," he said. "In my case, if one is my initial to know that my obligations to my business and to my family are met even while I am away."

Metrobank's billsXpay is a credit card service designed to provide ease and security to bill payments. It allows users to pay bills through any enrolled savings or current account. Call 8988000.

Garden . . .

From page B6

gardens, today she now conceptualizes and designs 300 hectares of luxurious sprawls, with three architects and two engineers to do the "hardscape," such as fountains, pools, trellises, gazebos, bridges. From working on a P20,000 budget, she now deals with clients whose projects summated to over P1 million.

Modern and impressionist. Sanders-Sandoval garners love for plants and a voracious appetite to learn. "The abstract of a universal's degree in landscaping made her mouth more open to learning things the hard way, and that attitude accounts for where she is now in her career.

When taking on projects abroad, for instance, Sanders scours the outskirts of the unfamiliar city for plants she sees make neat additions to their own gardens, but when combined with other elements they can look exquisite.

"The eye for aesthetics and detail is not something you just acquire overnight. It takes years of experience to know what 'works.' Real landscaping is a fine combination of art and science," said Sanders.

Not to toss herself down her competitors, but Sanders explained that the problem with landscape artists who actually studied the art is their incomprehension of horticulture. The setback, she said, lies in the curriculum where only one semester is devoted to horticulture.

She said one cannot just design and plant many. The simple reminder of grouping plants not based on water requirements can ruin a project.

"You have to consider the varieties of plants to use, how they will survive and learn the climatic conditions," Sanders said.

Those factors that should not be overlooked, she said, are: soil, since plants thrive on good soil so it is important to dig in and check if it is fertile for survival; sun orientation, such as finding out where the sun rises and sets as different places have different needs; and obstructions...such as nothing from trees unsightly Mondrin posts.

If in these months a new garden fails to bloom, chances are it never will. A deliciously executed garden must have grass that's at least 6 inches thick, small shrubbery 1.5 inches and large sizes 24 inches, and trees that are at least one-cubic meters.

Sanders, by Sunday's list, hours a 30-day itinerary guarantee. During each time, the company maintains the garden for the obstacle, with required supervision from the in-house gardener and owner. "But say, when the 30-day guarantee expires, there will always be someone who knows how to attend to the garden.

"This is the fragile stage, where the plants have to be guarded for them to grow on now and," she said.

Insightful tips can also be learned, such as treating plants with organic pesticide. Red insects, those that grow on the leaves, fade in the evenings. Spraying them diligently twice a week early in the morning with crushed salt, bays, or Perla soap mixed with water...in combination under between insects an insect, rice—keeps the bugs away.

"A beautiful garden is a collage of not just flowers and grass but a myriad of colors and hues," said Sanders. Her sentence has been said.

E-mail the author at sgambero@inquirer.com.ph

WATER of the pool is sourced from a natural hot spring.

Dora and friends go malling

WEEKENDS OF FUN, MUSIC, and interactive entertainment await kids of all ages (and that includes mom, dad, lolo, and lola as well) as Ayala Malls plays host to Dora and her friends' first-ever visit to the Philippines.

Dora the Explorer takes to be the hand and solves problems she has map in Dora's Sing Along Fiesta. No obstacle is too great as long as Dora, her magic backpack, Boots, the Big Red Chicken and Swiper the fox get involved!

Meet and play along with the T. year star of the worldwide hit TV educational show "Dora the Explorer," and get some valuable lessons in math, language, music, and more! Importantly, the importance of family and friends.

Dora's scheduled appearances are at Ayala Center Cebu Activity Center on Nov. 17 (4 p.m., 6:30 p.m.), May 18 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.), and Nov. 19 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6:30 p.m.).

Then it's off to the Market! Market! Activity Center for shows on Nov. 25 and 26 (2 p.m., 4 p.m.). In December the performances are at the Ayalaing Town Center Activity Center on Dec. 2 (11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.). A final weekend of shows happens at the Glorietta Activity Center on Dec. 9-10 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.).

LATINA besides, Dora the Explorer pushup on at the Ayala Malls this November and December

E-mail us

TO INCREASE ENCODING WORKload and to help reduce typographical errors, the Lifestyle section is from hereon strictly implementing the guidelines previously published in the Inquirer relating to press releases and other material submitted by public and corporate relations practitioners, media relations specialists, advertising agencies, etc.

All press releases intended for publication in Inquirer Lifestyle must be sent via e-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

Photos printed in Lifestyle must be sent directly to the PDI office accompanied by identifying captions. Or they may be submitted in .JPEG format on diskette or CD.

The photo size applies to all submitted stories. All releases and contributed stories must have names of contact persons and their phone numbers for verification.

PDI cannot guarantee the publication of press releases and unsolicited contributions.

The last inhabitant of the planet

Turn page 6

Last inhabitant

In the old days even decapitators never went FOR. Fogies remember when the most impressive gift to a date was a cattleya corsage with gold ribbon and that thrill red rosary meant one was loved. Now lolo sometimes gets an arrangement of dead leaves and orange wild fruit which one's daughter says can stay until it's big. We never thought owners of beautiful faces would ever want to make themselves ugly with ghoul makeup called Urban Decay and hairstyle fit for the undead.

Last inhabitants wonder when "furs" became the new lingerie. Or how we desire to get them. They also wonder what happened to the new silicon entire renegades that the mainland is post-one by one and dull in the fridge, or chest line more artistic guesses, the decrepitude and the duhot now displaced by spikes and grapes. Other even chaperones then and mostly know if their kids were being kissed or what. And oh yes, more progressive folks will their children to severely dig a condom in the preschool's mailbox.

Last inhabitants know darned well that every 20 you have two phones, a computer, a hat machine and a cell phone you sell sell-cover much your party. We have they adjusted to a cell phone ringing just when one is disappearing or have one leg into a pair of slacks they are trying on, during a crowded take at Manga. They believe family is the Beast of God and Mary's boy. Unless just ain't them. They go to Amerika or Australia to baby-sit when a new grandchild is born. (They don't really like it).

The way they were

Last inhabitants used to be called seniors and others, not that's big and it Bitch, or in reverse and doctors, and not sir and Lola. And a waiter or "uncle" was never one's pare, tay or bro. People padded about the house in shoes slippers, not flipflops wearing PJMS which they also wore to restaurants, movies and to be parsed, not spaghetti, and panahol not baguette or croissant. Never did they imagine they'd have to buy all the water they need to drink. They are wearing sweaters.

In their days, popular shoe sizes were 4 and 5, not thirty. If did it, they had to use the blackboard because the whiteboard, the pencils and fountain pen became the ball pen and cigo pen, the fruit salad became the grand salad, the amapurilla and strawberry cake became tea and diet Coke, coffee became a 24 hour thing.

They can't get used to young people interjecting each other and to first names. And they have seen standard Christmas gifts evolve from a box of Lux handkerchief or two cards of deodorant to a fortune plant to fruit cake, to fancy candle, to incense, and home soap. They never imagined soap would ever be pumped out from a bottle. You can tell who the old inhabitants are in a restaurant because they complain that the music is too loud, the aircon too cold and the pasta too tough and they are forever saying "ha?" to their kumpanyeros because they can't hear a peanut, the difference being a Chinaware and a cooked shrimp.

The death knell for decorum may be the day they get their first invitation to a dinner through e-secretary. They aspired to transfer the Inner Circle, but he didn't they realized and didn't attend. Starting by cell phone has now become the standard for empty texts of thats can't read text. Parents never verbally assured the new old people that they were loved. To their parents say "I love you" in their kids and then never every 20 minutes and you begin to wonder how much it is worth.

In their day bra straps were carefully hidden out of sight with safety pins or even special bands on the shoulders. Now they are purposely displayed and no one calls the vestige straps. They don't need to be reminded to wash their pars no their hair straight. Now it's deliberately crooked, draped or ripped.

Happy last days

But old ladies are happy about their last days because there is ballroom dancing. Suddenly there's something to do besides withering on the vine. The ballroom at 3 p.m. is a venue where they can do all the dips they wish and waltz with abandon, as if the pot lights on the ceiling were stars in heaven. Of course their life rules and regard cost of them. They make sure they would do not dip a dac or twist an ankle or catch pneumonia as that their bread-and-butter goes to early grave.

Senior citizens are not yet used to having their hairstyles called "antique" or their clothes "vintage" or "retro." They are extremely when plaidets wear on the left side of the dress or pants and were chased with snaps (automatics) or hooks and only later, zippers. Then the zippers moved to the back, that finally settled on the front like a matrix.

When they are not busy kind to the remaining inhabitants. Treat them to dinner and movies of sorts, buy them story-bling-bling, give them some money to pay their Dh. Because when we're gone who's gonna tell you all these things?

"The Last Full Moon" (UP Press) won the National Book Award for "Best Biography." It is available at Fully Booked, Power Books, Greenhills, Ad Magnanil and Alabang, National Bookstore, Shangri-La, Glorietta 5, Greenhill 3, The Podium and Alabang, Metropolitan Museum, Popular Bookstore, Salamanca and Quezon st Cubao, the other book, "Bed Kings: Untold Penis) is children's book, is also around.

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Christmas Treasures
2006

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Bonoto O. Velarde

EARLY FAVORITES: Miss USA Amanda Pennkamp and Miss Venezuela Mariana Paglia Martinez.

Record number of entries this year for Miss Earth tilt

By Kerwin Adina
Photos by Rudy Espeso

SOMETHING AMAZING THE changes in the pageant's venue, more countries were representative to the 2006 Miss Earth pageant this year.

More than 70 beauties paraded in their regulation Champion swimwear during the press presentation on Thursday at the Traders Hotel Manila, and some more candidates are expected to arrive in the coming days to push the total to 80, an all-time high for an international pageant staged in the Philippines. There were 80 contestants last year.

During the presentation, the candidates shared with the media their specific reasons behind entering the contest. The Miss Earth pageant is an advocate of environmental protection, so delegates are called "beauties for a cause."

The pageant was supposed to be held outside the country for the first time this year, in exile. But when the organizers in Chile failed to meet requirements as late as September, pageant owner Carousel Productions decided to just bring it back to the Philippines.

The team had only two months to mount the all, but no short a period compared to the timeline for previous editions, but Carousel managed to secure everything on time.

"Carousel had to work like a supercharger," confirmed Lorraine Schuck, executive vice president. "And of course, we were helped by a lot of friends."

And the Chilean pullout seemed like a blessing in disguise for the Philippines, who now have the opportunity to maintain a formidable hold of home soil.

Among the current crowned beauties is Mariana Paglia, who is poised to secure a back-to-back victory for Venezuela. Her compatriot Alexandra Braun attended press presentation.

Paglia won a scuffleball in the 2005 Miss Venezuela pageant, the toughest local pageant in the world—the most representative to the Miss Earth pageant titles the biggest the top prize in beauty-blessed 2006.

Another three contender in the United States' Amanda Pennkamp, who placed second to Donell Hennessey in the 2006 Miss USA pageant. Last August, she beat 2004 title winner Kandi Nancy Randall to

CATHERINE Untalan, Miss Philippines

SECOND | A2

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THE PRESTIGE

THE DA VINCI CODE

THE COVENANT

CONSTANTINE

THE MARINE

DARES GAME 3

THE PRESTIGE

THE GRUDGE 2

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

THE LOVERS

THE MARINE

THE COVENANT

DARES GAME 3

THE GRUDGE 2

THE PRESTIGE

THE MARINE

Bahay ng ang global pinoy cinema.

CINEMANILA

International Film Festival

MALL OF ASIA
Paraiso (Premiere)
7:00 p.m.
Rosebuddies
9:30 p.m.

MEGAMALL
Documentary on Autism
6:30 p.m.
Manok
9:00 p.m.

NORTH EDSA
Kaka si Nanay
7:30 p.m.
Anino ng Kahapon
9:30 p.m.

SHOWTIME

Event Calendar

November 24, 2006
Friday - 8:30 pm
THE PREMIERE THEATER
MALL OF ASIA

PRICE: P1,180 - P1,325

National Book Store

Record number of entries . . .

From page 1

her national pageant to earn her ticket to Miss Earth.

Thursday spectators were likewise awed by India's Antonia Patel, Chile's Hil Hernandez and Kosovo's Jirli Nos-Jessiq. Canada's Rina Mariton received a thunderous applause when she greeted the crowd in straight Filipino. Though Canada's born, Rarara' parents are both Filipinos.

Other candidates have crossed over from Ohio Universe.

Panama's Zenaluede de Sosa was a semifinalist in the 2003 Miss Universe pageant while Dina Mekalia of Ethiopia cracked the Top 20 in the Miss Universe last June where Poland's Beatrice Sadecka also competed.

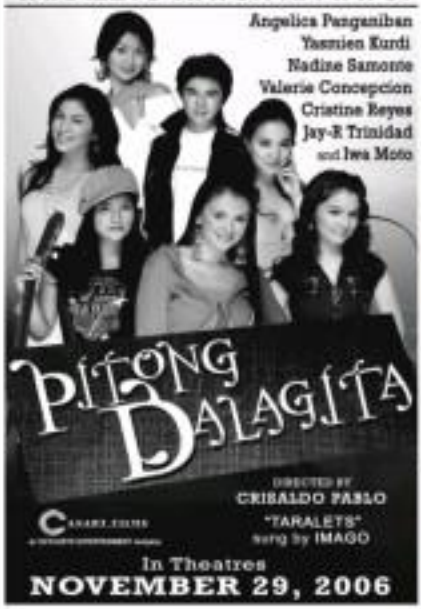
Egypt's Mariam George joined both Da Miss Universe and Miss Intercontinental pageants in 2005.

But it was Miss Philippines Catherine Gonzalez who received the loudest cheers that morning. Said the six-foot tall stunner above being host-delegate: "I hope that, by the end of this pageant, everyone can go home saying 'I enjoyed my stay in the Philippines.' Aside from doing good in the pageant, that is one of my goals here."

Coronation night, set on Nov. 26, on the National Museum, will be telecast on ABS-CBN at 8:30 p.m. The ceremonies will be beamed to some 76 other countries via Star World and The Filipino Channel.

MISS Chile Hil Hernandez

TARALETS WATCH NA TAYO!



FROM YUEN WOO-PING THE ACTION CHOREOGRAPHER OF "THE MATRIX"

THE ASIAN VERSION OF "THE LORD OF THE RINGS"

MISS Chile Estefania De Rivas

DID YOU KNOW...

WORK TOGETHER. Chris Scott poses flanked at Greenbelt 3's Cinema 2 as part of a CD promo tour recently, by the something that he said was a first for him.

It was also a first for his angel audience.

He walked onstage not first in front before the show while the entertainment was being set up.

"Wow," we thought, "he does sound decent."

It was announced that there was to be a "meet and greet with Mr. Scott." What it turned out to be, was the chanteuse's performance signing autographs for, and having snapshots taken with every single member of the audience.

Okay, Cinema 2 is a small venue and maybe only about 200 packed up.

But us, it's not what you did, but how he did it... really so much enthusiasm and warmth. And he chatted briefly with every one.

Ready a sufficiently prepped home.

Play to go.

Out of line

It's confirmed.

Regie Tekano' "Must Date" has pulled out of the Tokyo's Movie Magic Film Festival. Full story tomorrow

On 'Philippine Idol'

FROM "RELATED" (mabuhaynoon@gmail.com), 66 San Juan St. Barrio Kapitolyo Pasig City—

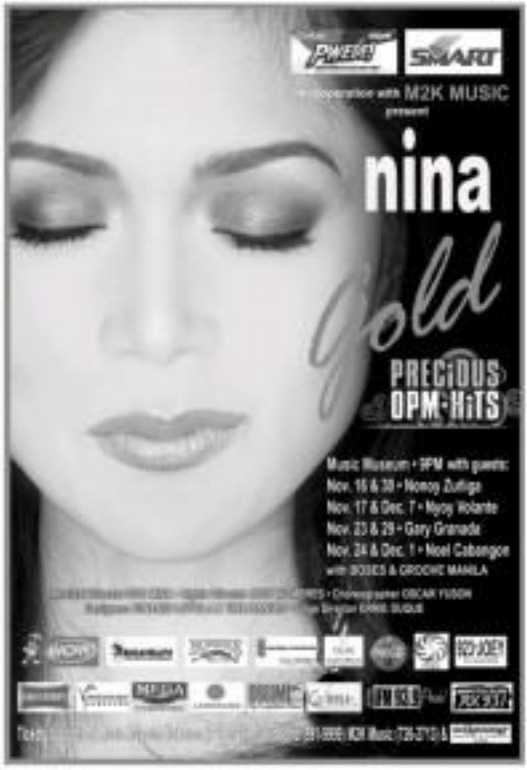
In response to the article "Now nine minutes 2 minutes," I'd like to say a few things.

1) When you're competing in a singing contest, it doesn't matter if you have playwrights or hairstylist. You're being judged for your performance at those points in time. It's also part and parcel of the whole process—to see if you have what it takes. If you are able to take care of your instrument to make sure you'll hit your stride when it's needed and always be able to give your all when it's crunch time. It's the same even when you are performing in a concert or a musical. Say, you become the first Philippine Idol. The people aren't not know what your circumstance is. They come to be entertained. They pay to see a good show. A true performer goes the audience their money's worth and more. So, fortunately or unfortunately for performers/singers, you're really only as good as your last performance when you donate to be on stage. Most we try to singing contest! You will be judged for that song you pick and how you sing it. If you don't agree, why take at all?

2) The first Philippine Idol should be able to sing all types of songs well, regardless of his/her personal singing style. That is the reason the producer assigns different themes every week. We all see and observe that on American Idol. When Mr. C commercializes AKS voice as being the weakest among the finalists, I don't think he was saying the aren't working hard enough or that he preferred the "bad" singers, nor was he leaning towards horrible singing. What he said was: With his voice, she couldn't compete with the "best." You see she was pere in 888. Instead, she should stick to her strength. Definitely, a different message altogether.

3) As for the area ruling, I think it's a good development. One has to be responsible to at least watch the shows and really check out the performances of the contestants to be able to vote wisely. If you just vote because a person is a friend of a friend without seeing for yourself if the candidate you are rooting for really has what it takes to be a quality "Philippine Idol", you might end up with a winner you don't care like when you do finally get a chance to watch/hear him/her. So, I say, if you plan to vote, watch! And if you watch, vote! And please vote wisely!

FEEDBACK



Ai Ai sets birthday show at Klownz Araneta

Ai Ai DELAS ALAS marks her 42nd birthday with a birthday concert at Klownz Araneta on Nov. 17 titled 'Idol'.

To be directed by Eric Quizon, the show will also feature Bik Bokis, Abot-K, Bad Boy Quizon, Nikki Valdez, Jaya and other surprise guests.

Call Klownz Araneta at 995-6900.

SHOW TIME

New Musicals

The New Musicals will perform at Sessions on Jupiter St. in Makati on Nov. 16, 23 and 30 and on Nov. 10, 23 and 30 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

Tessie at 25

It will be over last two classes to mark "TESSIE," Tessie Tomas' 25th anniversary celebration at the Tower's on the Square, on Nov. 28. Among Tessie's guests are Jon Santos, John Lapus and Mommy, with Sosi Tayanes as director. Call Arlet Rosas, 917-4810, 819-2445, 633-1992.

Jazz at Bykes

Sandra Lim-Hing, president of the Jazz Society of the Philippines and chair of the Philippine International Jazz Festival, performs with JFS Gary for Keiko at Bykes Lounge Pitchers and Fishers.

A new "home" for Jazz, Bykes Lounge is located at La Fuerza Bldg., 2241 Chino Roces Ave. in Makati City. Other regular performances are Colby de la Cobada, Mary Lopez, Edjen Arenal, Jazz Hunt, and Bonjoux Duplessis.

Tanauron

Duerinos, Coffeebreak is land and Humble Kuate at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3.

November 14

Freestyle at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

November 15

Side A at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

MOH Daniel and Sandra Lim

November 16

MOBB and Blinds at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

November 17

Bic Runken at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

November 18

Edu at Gear Kuripot Commemorable

Tanda Tomas and Edu at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

November 21

Freestyle at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

November 22

Side A at Towers on the Square, Greenhills 3

ROUNDUP

Golden Dove awardee

"Alyansa," the investigative news feature of radio station DWIZ, was recently named the 15th Golden Dove Awardee for Best Documentary Program for Radio by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas.

Airing every Saturday from 8:30 to 9 a.m., the program was cited for discussing in-depth topics which are timely and of public interest, for its careful research and organization of materials and for its presentation of issues.

DWIZ is headed by Alex Broadcasting Corporation president J. Antonio A. Cabangon Jr., executive vice president and general manager Wilfredo M. Tayag, station manager Ely Luspi and program director Ely Algoso.

Jab Market star

"Pinoy Pop Superstar" first runner-up Aiza Seguerra delighted hundreds of Filipino job seekers when she sang "I Don't Wanna Wait" at last month's Jaycees Job Market Overseas Employment Expo at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia.

Aizaby was the last Performance of Chow Country Bangsa the 2006 Samsung Music Festival held at the Astana, Kazakhstan, hosting statesmen from 14 other countries. She was for the rendition of the song "Ikot ng Sabihan" by Alfonso Santiago.

'Whiskey Echo'

Hallmark Channel premieres this November a four-hour miniseries exploring the civil war strife in South Sudan.

"Whiskey Echo," airing Nov. 14 at 8:00 p.m. is the compelling tale of seven unrelated years of young doctors, nurses and other workers struggling against all odds to provide humanitarian aid amidst the chaos and violence in the war-torn nation.

Dominique McElligott, Jewel Akpa, Amara Kelly and Frederick McGrath star.

'700 Club' live

"The 700 Club Asia" features the lives of ordinary people and celebrities in "Good News Stories" Tuesday to Thursday, 7-8pm (right after TV special on QTV Channel 11).

To be featured are members of typhoon Milenyo, TV comedian Debbie Shi and 70s singer Eva Vivar.

The special runs tomorrow night until Nov. 15 at 11:00 p.m.

'Is it Real?'

This month, Wednesdays at 10 p.m., National Geographic Channel (NGC) discover stigmata, Stalinists' predictions and habitual humans.

On Nov. 15, 'Is it Real? Stigmata' a about people who have wounds like those that Christ endured at His crucifixion. The Catholic Church has beatified or canonized some stigmatic. Are these wounds really gifts from God or are they are self-inflicted?

Forthcoming episodes are 'Survivors of Stalinism' on Nov. 22 and 'The Nostradamus Effect' on Nov. 29.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LINE EUROPA
2 SANTA CLAUSE 3
3 THE COVENANT
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS

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4 THE COVENANT
5 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
8 OPEN SEASON
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 THE GRUDGE 2

ERMITA
1 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE COVENANT
4 SANTA CLAUSE 3
5 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 THE MARINE

METRO EAST
1 THE COVENANT
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 SANTA CLAUSE 3
4 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
7 THE MARINE
8 TILL I MET YOU

NOVALICHES
1 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
2 THE COVENANT
3 THE MARINE
4 THE GRUDGE 2

CITISQUARE MALABON
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE GHOST INSIDE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER
1 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
2 THE COVENANT
3 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
4 SANTA CLAUSE 3

HAPPY FEET
schedule of activities
Meet n Greet Happy Penguins
ANDARE on NOVEMBER 22 at Robinsons Metromall

STA. ROSA
1 THE COVENANT
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 PULSE

LIPA
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
4 THE COVENANT

DASMARINAS
1 THE BANQUET
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 THE COVENANT
4 THE MARINE

ANGELES
1 THE COVENANT
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 THE BANQUET
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

IMUS
1 CARS
2 THE COVENANT
3 FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS
4 THE MARINE

STARMILLS
1 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE COVENANT
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER

BACOLOD
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE COVENANT
3 MY FIRST WEDDING
4 THE BANQUET
5 PULSE
6 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

ILOILO
1 THE COVENANT
2 THE BANQUET
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
4 FEAST

Pacquiao vs. Morales
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HBO's 'The Life and Death of Peter Sellers' is an excellently performed, mystifying presentation

007 ACTION BEGINS NOV. 15

PG-13

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

By Oliver M. Palomtom
Contributor

THE HBO BIOPIC "THE LIFE AND Death of Peter Sellers" is likely to cause a stir in the area behind the celebrated British artiste, as played by Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush. Best known for his comedic Inspector Clouseau character from the old "Pink Panther" movies of course, Peter Sellers is depicted as a dedicated actor who's life behind the scenes was constantly tempestuous. "Life and Death" covers some of his triumphant moments, but they're balanced out by the really unflattering ones.

It's a lively and eventful presentation, the levity that would characterize Sellers' offbeat significant and numerous contributions to both his career and personal life. As a consummate method actor, Sellers was determined to come over to acting in films, even when he was initially discouraged because he "wasn't handsome enough." He gifted actor nevertheless was recognized in his chosen field early on, although as the treatise accordingly, that, soon enough, his chameleonic and eccentricities would eventually and inevitably damage his home life.

Sellers' myriad faces are amusingly brought to life by Rush, who he makes barely recognizable at times, aptly lost in the finished therapist's many masquerades. Rush also avariously portrays associates in Sellers' life between the movies' acts. Three lovely and funny co-leviates bridge some of the more serious parts, and it's cued to see Rush in prosthetics, or dressed to drag to play the divorced actor's first wife and third (or maybe fourth) among other characters. But it doesn't go all out every time; realistic-looking devices accentuate the emotionally charged segments.

GEOFFREY Rush as Peter Sellers, top photo, and with Charlize Theron, above, in Brit Oldard

And "Life and Death of Peter Sellers" is positively gratifying when it depicts the Sellers/Jean Seberg affair, the actor and his family years through. There's not a moment in the HBO work geared more to try the sparkling ensemble and director Stephen Hopkins. Sellers' life is evidently left-leaning and rife with dichotomies and clowns. He's a human canvas, if you will, that needs to be painted over endlessly with portraits that he unconsciously assumes.

While pursuing his obsessions, however, he behaves rather peculiarly and becomes emotionally detached. It gets infuriating when he deliberately shuts out his wife (Emily Watson) and lover, his secretary but on-leg mother (Miriam Margolyes), Bush, Preston, and Magalyes offer a spicy turn along with Stanley Tucci as filmmaker Blindy Wilder (d. John Lithgow as "Pink Panther" director Blake Edwards) and Charlize Theron (as blonde bombshell Britt Ekland).

"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers" illuminates, not only on the distinguished actor's personal concerns, but also on the occasional foibles of the business. Sellers' issues is maybe as eccentric in spots and his excessive compulsions are very relevant. It's mighty messy, and Sellers' spiritual cocooning and revealing obsessions can make stark worth seeing and discussing.

"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers" will be shown again on Nov. 22 at 10:00 a.m. and Nov. 26 at 10:35 p.m.

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Per DTI's BP 50 Permit 1-01 Series of 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

Yam Laranas megs US 'Sigaw' remake, a terrific new Bond and Borat, part 2

LOS ANGELES—[THERE'S TO OUR FILIPINO director] making sense!

We are mighty proud that Yam Laranas himself will direct the American version of his acclaimed thriller "Sigaw" [which will be titled "The Echo."]

Variety quoted Tyler Mitchell of Vertigo Entertainment, which bought the rights from Regal Entertainment, as saying, "We love Oz the Maiden Kubrick style that Yam Laranas achieved on such a small budget with almost no special effects. 'Sigaw' is a really tight, contained psychological thriller. We want to give him a bigger stage to see what he can do now."

Scripter Christopher Landon will pen the 10th remake of "The Ring" and "The Grudge" and also produces? "The Departed," Martin Scorsese's highly praised film and his biggest hit.

When we asked Yam via e-mail if the reality of directing an American movie has sunk in yet, he replied, "I'm not sure if it will sink in soon. Dreams do come true (although I still believe that the project is a 'go' only when I start hearing the cameras roll). I want to look at it like I'm doing the usual movies I make but in a different country. It helped that I have Lorenzo Mercado with me [production]. I feel relaxed and very comfortable."

"I am very, very excited," he added. "I can't wait to start shooting and do things in the remake that I wish I did in the original. I will avoid things that I wish I did not do in the first one also."

He reminded readers about the $5 million budget for the remake to be shot in New York come March next year ("Variety" earlier reported that "Sigaw's" budget was $300,000).

"If you convert $5 million to Philippine pesos, that's a very huge leap from the original budget," he wrote. "By Hollywood standards, $5 million is a bit low. But, with this budget compared to the original, I know there will be plenty of room for my creativity to expand. The canvas has just gotten bigger."

Yam was optimistic: "I budget like this poses a challenge more than it gives pressure. I like to challenge myself into working on a low-budget but highly effective movie that will deliver the goods." "The Echo" has not been cast yet.

"Cavite" filmmakers Neill dela Llana and Ian Kinasoson will direct Regine Velasquez' "Blood on the Tracks," a film adaptation of an upcoming romance novel [set] in the underworld of Philippine horse racing. The talent agency of the duo, who won the Independent Spirit Awards' Someone To Watch plaque early this year, is Walter Mabbagh, son of Filipina actress Cuprianne Mabbagh (she's the sister of the late Gov. Nonie Cuyugan).

"Dreamgirl" director Adolfo Alix Jr. is also going places with his film that won the Norwegian votes with the same name (a sanctuary for whale sharks from November to May) as a backdrop for its story of love and healing. "Dreamgirl" makes its US premiere at the ongoing Port Lauderdale International Film Festival in Florida.

Perfect Bond

When a limousine pulled up in front of a New York hotel last weekend, the paparazzi got all excited, hoping the star who would emerge would be the new James Bond, Daniel Craig.

When it was out Daniel who came out, several of the paparazzi actually said, "Oh, it's just Brittney Spears."

Told by a reporter about this incident, Daniel modestly said, after the laughter died down, "Nothing but changed particularly, new in any mood. Now is the beginning of a little excitement."

After watching Daniel Craig in his first 007 movie, "Casino Royale" at the E-Walk Theater on Gen. Luna, we can say with confidence: We have a terrific friend in Daniel. He's the perfect case for the 21st century-grim, rugged and sensitive at the same time. That is the first Bond film where we have actually seen the four-letter word—love—in a Bond pic (played by the French actress Eva Green).

Daniel, a well-respected thespian before the Oscar-style picked him as The Next One over several rumored contenders, is probably the most skilled actor among those who joined Her Majesty's Secret Service. Daniel, with five scalp knots in the iconic MGA agent's hair, and Mads Mikkelsen as the villain (all three are no acting slouches, either), turn in a well-suited James Bond movie.

Providing the various forms is cutely bubbly actress Caterina Murino. In the action scenes, the prime appeal of 007 movies, there is one fantastic, screamy, extended action sequence in the film's opening shot, by itself, is guaranteed to stuff the term Debut-Bond bun.

Watch for our column on Daniel Craig this coming Friday.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca U. Nepomuceno

Pinoy filmmaker gets $5-million budget for the project, which starts shooting March next year in New York

PERFECT GET. Daniel Craig, with Eva Green, in "Casino Royale."

Borat redux

Following a just issue of our "reportings" of our press conference with Borat, the Kazakh journalist whose satiric "movie film," Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," is ridding both critics and moviegoers all over the world.

Baron, whose mangling of English makes Melanie Marquez seem like an expert on the Queen's language, is one of the character creations of British comedian, Sacha Baron Cohen. The journalist's "backward," prejudiced behavior brought out the "worst" in some of the people he met while traveling all over the "U S and A," the unscripted interaction with strangers resulted in some real, if funny moments caught on film.

What do you think about plastic surgery, especially among beauty contestants?

In my country, now we start to have plastic surgery. I find it strange the reason why they want to make their breasts go up and out. In my country, we like very much the dangle-ness. In fact, Miss Kazakhstan, Irena Kalugyeva have a pan that she attached rocks to during the year before contest. They dangle 1.3 meters, 1.56 if you include milk rubs.

The other question I wanted you ...

You are very nosy little woman. What is your next question, slavey?

Is everybody in your country like you?

Yes, in my country, we like very much enjoy ourselves and very close to improvement. It is nice. My sister is the number four prostitute in all of Kazakhstan. I can see where this conversation is going. So you accept US dollars?

How about Chilean pesos?

Ah, you are Chilean. Now it is explained.

What is your opinion of your Kazakhstan president?

He is glorious man. He sets his position not through primitive means that you use in the West by the man who has the most votes win. In our country, it is the man who can carry a woman against her will for the longest amount of time wins. He married a woman for about 8.3 miles, very nice! Also, is not only a strong leader, he can suspend a car battery from his testes and hold for three seconds. How long can you do it for?

He is a big admirer of your US Premier George Walker Bush. We in Kazakhstan very much admire this man. He is strong, this Mr. Bush although not as powerful as his father, Barbara Bush. Tough guy, Barbara.

RVR U

Yam Laranas megs US 'Sigaw' remake . . .

If you were invited to the White House, would you wear the same suit or would you wear something else?

If I had knew of meeting regular weekend Premier Suite, I would wear an outfit I have at home. It is based on the local shape of Queen, Freddie Mercury, yes. I have the leather and all. I like to wear it for special occasion. In fact, in Kazakhstan, I came in 14th in the Freddie Mercury look-alike competition which is very impressive when you realize there were over 600,000 contestants. But if I were to White House, I would wrestle with George Bush. I would dance with him and no nonsense.

When our Premier met him two weeks ago in Washington, he gave Premier Bush the traditional gifts of lollies and two pencil cases in a cup. There was a choice for Premier Bush in case his Premier is sweet boy.

What do you think of the American people?

American people is very smart. This is why they have elected this Premier Bush. He is very clever. He have very good ideas. When somebody makes resistance, he come in and create fears. Crash. Bet. ask question him.

We see you talking to Jessa Mocks and other people in the movie but we don't see you encountering Latinos who are more in this country.

I did not encounter any of these peoples. What are they like?

You are talking to one.

They look nice. I like you. You must come to my hotel room afterwards. We will drink vodka, wrestle with my clothes and maybe do my dog from the window, yes?

Tell us about the very interesting series trunks that you wore in Cannes and in those events before, yes, and I do not know what your is like, but some skirts the weight, allows the temperature right on the shoulders.

What can you tell us about Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan now is a very modern country and it's a very global country and very much like your countries around the world. We are so civilized as anyone, particularly since the election of 2004 which have now meant that women are now entitled to travel on trains of bus, homosexuals they no longer have to wear blue hats and the age of consent has been raised to 12 years old.

There are apparently efforts in Kazakhstan to objective drawings of Borat film there.

No, there is attempt in Astana by gypsy communists to stop me release the film. I think what provoked it was I remarked when I met them last week that I had seen a comparison to the Communist Asian Olympics by holding a gypsy 10 metres with a rock. Sixth, I do not know why people would find this offensive, though.

When you walked into that church in the movie, everybody was just there. Did you feel anything?

It was a very emotional experience for me. I was feeling very low at this time. Also, this evil, spirit of Pentecostal is a very strange for me. In my country, I follow the hard, 'do believe that the world was created 200 years ago when the giant burst laid a egg and then pecked out a chaps which was the first country, Kazakhstan. Then the yolk from the egg split out and made the sea which became all the seas that you know. By the way, I want say that our latest follower of our religion is Tom Cruise. He said it made a lot more sense than his previous one.

What can you tell us about Ivan Ivan?

I like England. I have done research trips in England. They like to do this for hunting where they like rambling more than to shoot it but and rip it apart with wild dogs, yes.

You come to America to learn things for your nation. What can the world learn from Kazakhstan?

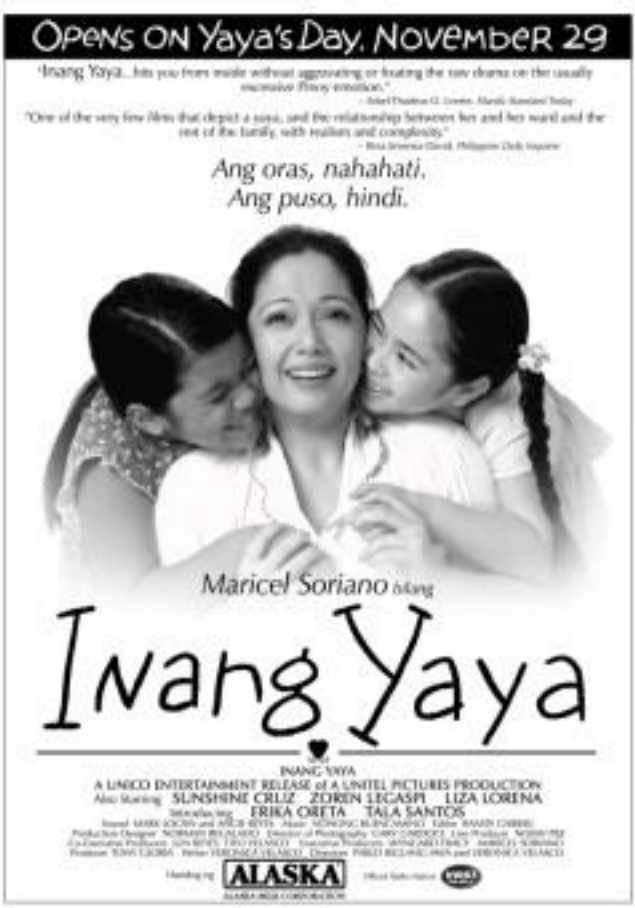
I think there is much that we can give you, not only our beautiful delicacies of food, for example, fermented horse urine or pine which is horse's throat or wonderful meal of lamb cake which is horse's backbone fried with a bit of paprika but also our music on how to beat each other and to be true, everybody equal.

All right, I will go to Kazakhstan.

Please, all of you must come to Kazakhstan. It is a country with good rainwater, good and nice people and some of the cleanest prostitutes in Central Asia.

E-mail the columnist at cvmanalo_2000@yahoo.com

BORAT. Baron Cohen as Borat, in the "official Kazakh Olympic swim team uniform."



John Cena looms large but acts stolidly in fantasticating action film

"THE MARINE" IS A MOVIE FOR ACTION FANS who want to see a lot of explosions, hectic car and guns'n' bone chases, supercool effects, and superhuman heroes who survive all of the colossal cocktails that the bad guys throw their way. However, who prefer a measure of logic and reasonable realism in their entertainment fare may opt for trips to your favorite and escapist flick.

First-time director Aldo Bautista's movie hangs by the diamond of plot threads. Robert Patrick plays a super-villain whose gang runs off with a treasure in diamonds. John Cena is an ex-Marine who's gone on a camping trip with his wife Shelly (Gabrielle) but they have the misfortune bad luck of stumbling paths with the diamond thieves, and Gabriel's character is kidnapped.

The genius Jason Cena (for short), but of course he survives with nary a scratch, and chases the gang's escape vehicle until his own car is shot up to little bits. Does one of the hundreds of bullets they shoot find its mark in his flesh? Naturally not.

After the gang ditches its vehicle, Cena trails them like a homing pigeon. To escape from him again, Patrick sets off another explosion that rubble ruins a huge house—but Cena survives that too, too.

One by one, he eliminates the members of the gang, until only two, Patrick and his sexy pre-adult squeeze, are left.

Cena moves in for the kill, but Patrick sends his new escape vehicle straight into a dive with Cena's car handcuffed to it. After a long time struggling to free herself from her underwater tomb, she appears to expire.

But Cena doesn't give up, instead he, and herself, his supposed dead, into her—with expectedly miraculous results. After one more explosion for the road, the heartwarming action film finally achieves its exploitation-happy ending.

Over-the-top

As you can see, the movie's narrative story is not to be believed—but action fans greater to it any, way because it provides enough visual kicks and treks to make them dizzy.

Yes, the chases, confrontations and explosions are much too over-the-top, but direction Dexter makes sure that they're professionally staged and spectacularly set off.

We hope that he can his directing work in wars, martial bouts for their feature and edge-of-your-seat action, as he makes sure that his first feature film is absolutely replete with those glossy, hard-sell headaches.

Cena, the actor who plays the movie's title character, is also a first-timer in feature films, but he doesn't do as well as his direction. A lolling mountain of a man, he moves off agreeably and sympathetically enough, but his craggy face appears to be fixed in only one expression (which is missed by matched the scene).

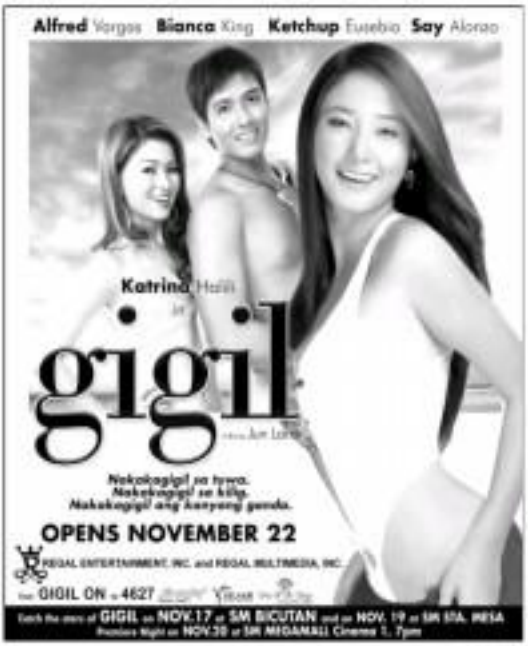
But his awesome physique, power and agility come in handy during the movie's many chase and action scenes, so Cena could be tapped to star in more super-actioners in the future.

After all, Arnold Schwarzenegger also started his action film career with a floral expression and monotonous delivery of dialogue—and look where the "Governator" is now!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Marine' hangs by slim plot threads



Sonic symmetry

Dashboard Confessional's latest CD is fuller, richer

By Oliver M. Palumbarit
Contributor

DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL has always been driven by the artistic vision of singer-songwriter and guitarist Chris Carrabba, whose extra-sensitive lyrical compositions have won over a huge and eclectic fan base in the past five years.

DC is practically a one-man show. "Carrabba has extensive hand in creative and rhythmic arrangements, aside from the cup-coated vocals" but he's still predominantly assisted by bassist Scott Schoenbeck, drummer Mike Marsh, and guitarist-keyboardist John Lefler in the new album "Dusk and Summer." The latest CD signifies Carrabba's maturity in composition, and his utilization of a rounder musical arsenal is a departure from the spare... but differently concocting—previous albums.

"Dusk and Summer" sounds fuller and richer sounding, and while it doesn't recycle the subdivided youthful energy of Carrabba's past works, it's an exemplary harnessing of his inner emotive drive. Don't look for the old stripped-down but spunky numbers like "The Sharp Hint of Your Tears" or "Screaming Infidelities" but the artist is working with a different palette, at least for the basics. The songs, while still mostly about matters of the heart, possess a more authority, more rock-radio staple congruency to them.

Relaxed clarity

Somewhat sounding like a higher-pitched Robert Smith in "Reasons to Believe" and "Slow Decay," Carrabba's voice is more consistently stable and more versatile by this recording. He still belches and bellows powerfully in the better-paced songs, but he subordinates restraints and conveys a relaxed clarity in the mellower ones. The title track "Dusk and Summer" is a haunting, bittersweet ballad—think Radiohead's "Fake Plastic Trees" or Travis' "More Than Us"—its sole cold ultrasonic through Carrabba's effective reverbing and strumming. The pianoed "So Long, So Long" is also a poetic piece made more meditative with the contribution of founding Cursive vocalist Adam Duritz.

Carrabba's lyrics typically echo and then irresistibly lure us deeper into his confessional turmoils, revealing cues again that he's attuned to his innermost feelings. His self-awareness (don't haunt's gotten old—very few can pull off both honesty and sensitivity like he can ...and his emotion-focused writing is often balanced with an upbeat cadence, anyway.

REVIEW

Intimate confessions

Dramyard saves sweetest like "Don't Wait" and "Heaven Here" speak of intimate connections and confessions, as does the tenderly touching "Solace" ("when you spin around,/ in your highest heels/ you are the best one/ of the best ones/ and we all look like we bail"). Well, he knows how to create imagery with simple but provocative phrases.

Dashboard Confessional's "Dusk and Summer" doesn't evoke the pristine, easy seeming of the "Swiss Army Romance" collection of songs, nor the cognizable drama of "A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar," but the album is just as easy to like. Chris Carrabba makes use of his creative latitudes well, and given longtime and new fans, it's a vibrantly produced and pulsing assortment of sentimental, sexy and sensitive stories.

Inspirational CD

MADRIGAL SINGERS

BORN AMO HAS RELEASED THE Philippine Madrigal Singers' fifth album titled "Kumbancion."

The group's first conceptual inspirational album contains 14 songs mostly arranged by members and alumni.

Recorded live for four three-hour sessions in the Philamlife Auditorium, the album is mostly done to a capella save for some spare guitar accompaniment.

Among the songs in the collection are "I Will Sing Forever," "Sen Kaite Ide-Up," "Lupa" and "Light of a Million Mornings."

SPIN CITY

Rock classics

Rod Stewart returns to his roots with the release of "Still the Same... Great Rock Classics of our Time," his first rock album in over eight years.

The album, under Sony BMG Music Entertainment, includes compositions of Bob Dylan ("If You Be Her"), Van Morrison ("Crazy Love"), Bob Seger ("Still the Same") and John Fogerty ("How You Ever Been the Rain?").

It features top notch session musicians like Kenny Aronoff and Dean Parks.

ROD STEWART

YEAH! BENNETT

Duets

Tony Bennett vaulted his 80th birthday this year by recording and releasing "Tony Bennett: Duets: An American Classic," under Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

The CD features Bennett performing his best-loved songs with guest artists Bono, Michael Bublé, Elton Costello, Diana Krall, k.d. lang, John Legend, Paul McCartney, George Michael, Sting, Barbra Streisand, James Taylor and Stevie Wonder.

Duets instrumentalists in the album are composer Dick Hyde and violinist Pinchas Zukerman.

Chart topper

Bennett's second album, "The Quiet Boot," debuted at No. 7 on the Billboard International Sales Charts, making it the highest-selling new release for that week.

Several songs in the album were recorded in an old chapel and became a classic as well as strings.

The band members are Amy Lee (vocals, piano), Terry Balsamo (guitar), John Balsamo (guitar), John LeCompt (guitar), Will Boyd (bass) and Rocky Gray (drums).

Alternative

Local band Cassibé has released its latest single, "Borrowed Time," from the album "Back To Me" under Sony BMG Music Entertainment. The song, about life being short, and longing to spend time with one's loved ones, was written by bassist Pete Labrado.

New label

The new record label NuGen Music has launched the self-titled solo album of singer-actor Chito Gaston.

The album features the carrier single "I Got You," other songs are "Sing," "Midsummer Love Affair," "Dream Away" and "If I Dream About."

CHITO

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